

news



Clear view: A workman cleaning the roof of the the Docklands Light Railway station at Canary Wharf, east London yesterday

Photograph: Brian Harris

Media face tighter intrusion laws

MARIANNE MACDONALD and STEPHEN GOODWIN

The rules governing media intrusion into people's private lives are being re-written after a series of front-page Royal exclusives led by the hoax Princess Diana video.

The rules form part of the industry's code of practice administered by the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), whose chair, Lord Wakeham, yesterday spoke out against the recent "stream of injudicious stories centring on the private lives of public individuals".

Grahame Thomson, secretary of the editors' committee which updates the code, con-

firmed last night that the publication of pictures from the faked video of Princess Diana and her former lover, James Hewitt — published by the *Sun* on Tuesday as the real thing — raised privacy issues.

That section of the code was being "re-stated", he said. "There has to be a limit as to how far you go. If a paper is stupid enough to accept phony material without checking, that is up to them."

"But the protection of privacy is very important, and although there is fairly adequate cover in the code, we are making some changes."

The issue of media misbehaviour has returned to the fore,

following several recent "exclusives" about members and former members of the Royal family, including the revelations of a fortune teller consulted by the Duchess of York and a claim that Prince William had a crush on the step-sister of one of his schoolmates.

Neither story triggered any complaint to the PCC, while the *Sun's* five-page "Royal World Exclusive" about the Diana hoax video prompted only four complaints, all from members of the public.

As part of a general clampdown, however, the Lord Chancellor's department is expected to issue a consultation paper later this month recommending

that media payment of huge sums to witnesses in trials is outlawed.

The move, triggered by the buy-ups of witnesses in Rosemary West's trial for murder last year, signals the Government's lack of confidence in newspapers' attempts at self-regulation.

The Code of Practice says that "intrusions or enquiries into an individual's private life without his or her consent... are not generally acceptable" unless in the public interest.

Another section, also being revised by the Editors' code committee, says that payments should not be made to potential witnesses in court cases without the same justification.

Yesterday Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for Heritage, said she believed there was room for tighter safeguards on the press but that legislating would be "fraught with difficulty".

"Legislation tends to be costly, complex and does not necessarily deliver results," she warned. But she emphasised that she took the question of privacy "extremely seriously" and that it would remain under review.

Earlier this year she asked Lord Wakeham to ensure that commitments on self-regulation were being taken forward. These included writing the code into contracts of employment,

getting more lay members on the PCC, and setting up a public hotline to make the commission more accessible.

"There is room for further tightening the safeguards," Mrs Bottomley said. "It is the dilemma in a modern democracy that you have to temper freedom of information with responsibilities."

But Jack Cunningham, Labour's Heritage spokesman, said: "Without a strengthened Press Complaints Commission we will see some sections of the press continue with their deplorable behaviour, with its inevitable damage to people's lives and privacy."

Leading article, page 17

New code sets limits for editors

Extracts from the code

Privacy

Intrusions and enquiries into an individual's private life without his or her consent, including the use of long-lens photography to take pictures of people on private property without their consent are not generally acceptable and publication can only be justified when in the public interest.

Note: private property is defined as (i) any private residence, together with its garden and outbuildings, but excluding any adjacent fields or parkland and the surrounding parts of the property within the unaided view of passers-by (ii) hotel bedrooms (but not other areas in a hotel) and (iii) those parts of a hospital or nursing home

where patients are treated or accommodated.

Listening Devices

Unless justified by the public interest, journalists should not obtain or publish material obtained by using clandestine listening devices or by intercepting private telephone conversations.

Misrepresentation

(i) Journalists should not generally obtain or seek to obtain information or pictures through misrepresentation or subterfuge.

(ii) Unless in the public interest, documents or photographs should be removed only with the express consent of the owner.

(iii) Subterfuge can be justified only in the public interest and only when material cannot be obtained by other means.

Innocent relatives and friends Unless it is contrary to the public's right to know, the press should generally avoid identifying relatives or friends of persons convicted or accused of crime.

Interviewing or photographing children

(i) Journalists should not normally interview or photograph children under the age of 16 on subjects involving the personal welfare of the child in the absence of a parent or other adult who is responsible for the child.

(ii) Children should not be approached or photographed at school without permission of the school authorities.

The Public Interest

Clauses 4.5, 7.8 and 9 create exceptions which may be covered by invoking the public interest. For the purpose of this code is most easily defined as:

(i) Detecting or exposing crime or serious misdemeanour.

(ii) Protecting public health and safety.

(iii) Preventing the public from being misled by some statement or action of an individual or organisation.

In any case raising issues beyond these three definitions, the Press Complaints Commission will require a full explanation by the editor demonstrating how the public interest was served.

Northern Ireland: Dublin's relations with Adams at lowest ebb for years

Sinn Fein chief rebukes Bruton over 'Nazi' attack

DAVID MCKINTIRK
Ireland Correspondent

The president of Sinn Féin, Gerry Adams, yesterday responded to stinging criticisms from the Irish government by lecturing the Taoiseach, John Bruton, on his responsibilities in unusually combative terms.

Mr Bruton had earlier followed his previous comparison of the republican movement to

the Nazis by warning: "No more Lisburns. No more spectaculars. No more beatings. No coded warnings. Just the ball and bat."

The Daily in Dublin yesterday devoted an all-day debate to the question of the peace process in the wake of Monday's double IRA bomb attack on British army headquarters at Lisburn, Co Antrim.

But amid condemnation of the IRA and Sinn Féin from all

sides, Mr Bruton and other ministers conspicuously refrained from breaking all possibility of contact with the republican movement. The hope in Dublin, though it is not based on any particular confidence, is that the Lisburn attacks do not mean the peace process is at a definitive end.

But the exchanges between Mr Bruton and Mr Adams signal that Dublin's relationship

with the republican movement is at its lowest ebb for years.

Mr Adams said: "Many will resent the Taoiseach's use of the terms Nazis and fascists. It would be easy for me to slip into similar name calling but such an approach would be deeply unhelpful at this dangerous time."

"Mr Bruton has a responsibility to take the lead in creating a viable political alternative to conflict."

The Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, told the Daily: "At a time like this, it is very difficult not to succumb to anger and despair. No one can avoid feeling these emotions, and the more one has worked to better the situation, the more keenly they will be felt."

Governments must make the hard decisions. "We have sought to maintain a careful balance between giving the necessary encouragement to those who are genuinely seeking a transition from violence to peace, while at the same time ensuring that those whose purposes could well be the opposite."

Police in the province are still interviewing a man arrested in the Poleglass housing estate in west Belfast, near where the bomb gang's getaway car was found burning just after Monday's bombings. He is being questioned by the RUC at Castlereagh.

Lisburn attack forced doctors to postpone urgent operations

JOJO MOYES

A senior neurosurgeon at Northern Ireland's biggest hospital appealed to terrorists to consider the consequences of their actions yesterday, as it emerged that the Lisburn bombings had forced surgeons to postpone operations on seriously ill patients.

Tom Fannin, a senior consultant neurosurgeon at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, said the hospital was "very concerned" that the upsurge in violence meant that intensive care beds were filled by the victims, leaving no room for scheduled patients, and said it could have serious conse-

quences for health care resources in the province.

Three patients who had their operations cancelled required brain surgery and a fourth needed a tumour removed from her abdomen. Mr Fannin had also had to cancel an operation to correct an aneurysm — a blood vessel that had burst in a patient's brain.

The patients were said to be "very distressed" at the postponement of their operations, some of which had been planned many weeks ago.

"I want to plead very strongly that [the terrorists] think very carefully before they undertake any of these awful acts which inevitably result not just

in loss of life but terrible consequences for other victims," Mr Fannin said.

As he spoke, four of the most seriously injured casualties of the Lisburn bombings were still in the Royal Victoria's intensive care unit, one critically ill.

Mr Fannin, a neurosurgeon since 1977, said a resumption of violence was likely to have more serious consequences than before the ceasefire because policy on the use of intensive care beds had changed. Dr Ian Carson, medical director of the Royal Victoria, said the cost of intensive care meant a return to violence would have serious implications for health budgets.

significant shorts

Minister refuses fishing cuts

Britain will not implement any moves approved by the European Union to reduce fish catches unless the problem of foreign quota-hopper trawlers is resolved, Douglas Hogg, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday.

Mr Hogg was responding to European Fisheries Commissioner, Emma Bonino, who had called for a 40 per cent cut in "fishing effort" by fleets over six years and warned that quota-hoppers could increase unless Britain continued its fleet decommissioning programme. But after meeting South West fishing industry leaders in Plymouth, Mr Hogg said the cut would be "very unacceptable" to the Government.

Teenager dies from rabies bite

A teenager, bitten by an animal on a trip to Nigeria, died from rabies, medical experts confirmed after a post-mortem examination yesterday. The 18-year-old youth died on Sunday night at Coppetts Wood Hospital in north London, which specialises in infectious diseases, after being admitted to a casualty department at the nearby Whittington hospital the previous day.

Staff at the hospitals who came into contact with the unnamed man are to have a series of immunisation injections.

Murder case man tells of kiss

Stuart Morgan, a lorry driver accused of murdering French student Céline Figeat, 19, told Worcester Crown Court yesterday that he had a brief sexual encounter with her after asking for a Christmas kiss in return for a lift.

Mr Morgan, 37, of Bourneville, Dorset, said he drove her from Chicheley services, on the M4 at Newbury, Berkshire, to Southampton. He said she was "smiling and happy" when he left her. Asked why he had not come forward after the nationwide search for a lorry driver matching his description, Mr Morgan, who denies murder, said he wanted to hide from his wife the fact he had slept with another woman. The case continues today.

Pub manager took Dunblane appeal fund

A pub manager has been convicted of stealing £600 he raised in an appeal for victims and their families after the Dunblane massacre last March in which 16 children and their teacher were killed.

Patrick Southgate, 49, who also took £1,400 from the bar in Poplar, east London, when he ran away to Spain in April, was told yesterday by Judge Stephen Robbins at Southwark Crown Court that his crime "might be regarded as the most despicable and mean offence". Sentencing was adjourned until 1 November.

Minister in trouble again

Sir Nicholas Scott, the former Cabinet minister, faced a new threat to his political career after being taken back to his hotel by the police after an Irish Embassy party in Bourneville early yesterday morning. A spokesman for Dorset police confirmed that a man was found in the street outside the main Conservative conference hotel, and driven to his own hotel, but refused to confirm his name because no one had been arrested or charged.

In March, Sir Nicholas was narrowly endorsed as the Tory candidate for his Chelsea seat. Within days, he was banned from driving for a year for drink-driving and failing to stop after an accident in which he trapped a three-year-old boy between two cars. *John Rentoul*

Warning over pillows for asthmatics

Feather pillows may be better for asthmatics than pillows with synthetic fillings, according to new research which questions the advice to the contrary given to some sufferers.

Scientists in New Zealand analysed dust samples from nine pairs of pillows, one of which was feather and the other filled with polyester fibre, to determine the content of a particular allergen associated with the house dust mite which is a strong risk factor for asthma. The polyester pillows contained more than eight times as much allergen than the feather ones, according to the report in the *British Medical Journal*. *Liz Hunt*

HRT risk reported

Women on hormone replacement therapy (HRT) run an increased risk of blood clots in the leg, or lungs, according to new evidence published in *The Lancet*.

Two studies by scientists in Oxford and Boston, conclude that out of 10,000 women taking HRT, two will suffer blood clots that they would not otherwise have had. A third study, also from the United States, found a smaller risk of one woman in 20,000 suffering from a clot.

The scientists say that a family or personal history of clots, obesity, or confinement to bed for long periods, should be considered before HRT is started. *Liz Hunt*

Body found in house unidentifiable

The body of a man found under floorboards by officers who were checking a house may have been there for several weeks, police said. The remains of the man, believed to be in his thirties, were found by police at a house in Greenock, Strathclyde. Strathclyde Police have not been able to identify the remains, which are believed to be in a decomposed state, but said they hoped forensic examination would reveal more information today.

Second road group face eviction

A second group of protesters camped in the path of a £65m West Country road scheme face eviction following a court hearing in Exeter yesterday. An application for possession of land at the Trolheim camp near Exeter was granted to the Highways Agency, construction consortium Connex, engineering firm Balfour Beatty, and the trustees of the Escot Estate. Today a similar application is due to be made over a camp at Fairmile. On Tuesday an order for possession was made against protesters at Allercombe. All three camps are in the path of the 13-mile Exeter-Honiton road.

Yorkshire

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Rich world, poor world: Exploration could bring jungle nomads into disastrous contact with Western illnesses, says British group

Oil search 'will kill' Amazon natives

MICHAEL STREETER

Scores of Amazonian Indians who have had no contact with the outside world could face death because of exploration by an oil company, campaigners claimed yesterday.

The Mashco-Piro are a nomadic people in remote jungle in south-east Peru where Mobil is carrying out seismic tests for oil.

Survival International, a British group which is monitoring the situation, say it is "inevitable" that many of the Indians will die from contact with common Western illnesses - such as whooping cough - against which they have no immunity.

They complain that despite promises from the company to keep away from local peoples, there have been at least three "encounters" between them.

A local Indian representative group called Fenamad has taken statements from Indians on the exploration crews outlining the incidents, including helicopters flying low over Indian groups and a violent clash where the Mashco-Piro fired arrows at an exploratory team.

There are rumours that up to three workers have been killed in such battles - reports firmly denied by Mobil, which

is an American company. Jonathan Mazower, Survival's campaigns officer, said that 11 years ago, when the Shell oil company and loggers had encountered related Indians in a neighbouring territory at least half their population - up to 100 - had been wiped out by disease.

"There is a tragic inevitability about what Mobil is doing," he said. "There is a very real danger that if there is any prolonged contact then some of these Indians will die."

Mr Mazower added: "These people have a right to be left alone. Both Peruvian and international law has recognised this."

Helen Newing, a biologist who has studied the situation, believes that the Mashco-Piro face disaster. "There is a real danger they could disappear altogether," she said.

The area of Peru where the peoples live, Madre de Dios, is split into two prospecting areas known as Block 77 and Block 78, each around 1.5 million hectares, where the government has approved exploration.

Little is known about the mainly hunter-gatherer group, not even their name for themselves. They have been called "Mashco-Piro" because they appear to have a language similar to the Piro people. Ms



Encounter with the camera: One of the Mashco-Piro, a tribe which is thought to have had no previous contact with the outside world

Photograph: Survival International

Newing said there was evidence that the group had been trying to avoid outsiders, probably because they were aware of what had happened to their neighbours.

There are believed to be a total of 1,500 uncontacted people

in the area, including the Amahuaca and the Yaminahua. Mobil yesterday denied there had been three encounters, and said that a detailed investigation at the weekend found only two "events".

A spokesman at its head-

quarters in the US said that one of those involved had proved to be a sighting of a loggers' village, rather than an Indian one, and in the other a seismic worker on a rest break reported seeing the back of a naked man with "black, straight, long

hair" walking 30 metres away. He said that the company's strict policy was to ensure no contact with the Indians and that staff - including those among the seismic subcontractors - were all given medical checks and environ-

mental "sensitivity" training. A team of anthropologists and other experts was on stand-by in case inadvertent contact should occur.

"We want to reassure people that we are taking all possible steps to minimise the impact on

people and the environment," the spokesman said. A spokesman for Shell said the circumstances of the events in 1985 were not clear, but that any lessons learned would be incorporated into future projects.

Sunbeds banned in alert over skin cancers risk

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Two local councils have banned sunbeds from leisure centres on health grounds, it emerged yesterday as a leading skin specialist urged an outright ban on the beds in all publicly-funded clubs and centres.

Dr Jonathan Norris, a consultant dermatologist at Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary in Scotland, is urging colleagues nationally to put pressure on their local councils to remove sunbeds.

Their use for cosmetic tanning must be re-examined as evidence grows that ultraviolet A radiation - the type of rays provided by sunbeds - is a promoter of skin cancers including the life-threatening melanoma. He said: "The medical profession should be more critical of sunbed salons that operate purely for financial gain."

Skin cancer is increasing by about 10 per cent a year and there are about 40,000 new cases diagnosed annually. Melanoma is increasing by about

5 per cent, with about 4,000 new cases a year. Despite strong Government public health messages designed to stop people sunbathing naturally or using artificial sources, sunbeds remain popular and there has been a recent explosion in high-street walk-in tanning shops.

A survey by the Office for National Statistics, found that one in 10 women and 7 per cent of men had used sunbeds in the past year. Almost one in four of these women exceeded the maximum limit of 20 sessions a year, that is recommended by the British Photodermatology Group. One in 10 users said that they had spent more than 30 minutes at a time on beds.

In a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, Dr Norris writes: "The promotion of machines whose only function is to produce radiation damage to the skin, which may ultimately promote skin cancer, should play no part in the operations policy of modern local councils professing to have the best interest of their constituents at heart. Councils may argue that they

are catering for a demand for sunbeds by the public, but this demand is led by ignorance and should be rejected."

In February, Caradon District Council in Liskeard, Cornwall, removed sunbeds from one of its leisure centres, and has decided not to provide them in two new centres which it has opened since. In June, Dumfries and Galloway Council removed sunbeds from five locations in south-west Scotland, following consideration of reports about the dangers of cosmetic tanning, including one that was submitted by Dr Norris.

A spokesman for Dumfries and Galloway said that it had decided to ban "public health before financial income". No formal complaints from the public had been received, she added, although people had asked attendants at the centre why the decision had been taken to remove the beds.

Dr Norris said that now that a precedent had been set, all local authorities should seriously consider closing down their sunbed facilities. "Doctors, and dermatologists in particular, should pressure them to do so," he writes.

Speaking yesterday, Dr Norris said he thought councils were irresponsibly misleading people into associating sunbeds with health and fitness. He

said: "Sunbeds at council-run leisure centres are very common. When you get a leisure facility operated by a council, designed for health and fitness, very often they'll throw in a sunbed, and the reason they do so is for profit."

"I think councils should operate higher moral and ethical standards. It's enough of an uphill struggle educating people about skin cancer without local authorities promoting what I'm fighting against."

A spokesman for the Association of County Councils said yesterday that local authorities always considered public safety and kept a close eye on the medical evidence related to sunbeds, and that users were advised accordingly.

No one from the Sunbed Association, which represents some high-street tanning salons, was available to comment on Dr Norris's claims yesterday.

The manager of The Gentry, a beauty salon in east London, which provides two sunbeds for its customers, said her establishment did not tell people about specific health risks linked to their use.

"Most of them know the dangers, and they've read about it like we all have. I think it is up to them if they want to take the risk. It's their decision, isn't it?" she said.



French undressing: From Lacroix, a short ruffled black organza coat-dress over cream embroidered lace lingerie Photograph: Jack Dabaghian/Reuters

Lacroix still a master of the mix

TAMSI BLANCHARD
Paris

It was African, 18th-century with a little bit of Mozart madness thrown in for good measure. Christian Lacroix, the master of eccentric French dressing, showed an upbeat but disciplined collection yesterday. There were bright mixes of colour, fine woven fabrics, and bright abstract patterns.

Sitting on the front row was Alexander McQueen, the British designer tipped for the job at Givenchy when John Galiano moved to Dior in time for the couture house's 50 year anniversary in January. He has been attending shows this week, including Rifat Ozbek and Ann Demeulemeester on Wednesday night. He is not commenting on whether or not he's been offered, or indeed is taking the Givenchy job. Lacroix is thought to have turned down the job at Givenchy in the summer: his label is owned by the all-powerful LVMH conglomerate which also owns Givenchy and Dior.

The Turkish-born British-based designer Rifat Ozbek showed his collection in the Moulin Rouge. The collection was almost entirely in black, dedicated to "Decadent Debutantes, Thesaurians and Aristocrats in Africa". The designer used the season's transparent fabrics to make fencing tunics, stretched tube dresses with ruffles tiers and decorated others with jet beading and feathers.

The Belgian designer Ann Demeulemeester showed a collection of classic tailoring and simple jersey dresses worn by androgynous male and female models which, at times, were difficult to tell apart.

The collections continue today with Vivienne Westwood, who shows this afternoon.

Why a muse and a model is parting with 500 dolls. Page 5




730am HEATHROW Iberia: First to Madrid

EC-FKH

We've got more time for you

IBERIA

755pm MADRID Iberia: Last back to Heathrow



news

Popular writer has more than one best-loved poem

Author comes to hate her homage to elderly women

DAVID LISTER

National Poetry Day yesterday found an unlikely heroine with an unlikely response to being judged one of the nation's best loved poets. Jenny Joseph, 64, claims that the poem that has placed her above the likes of John Betjeman, Dylan Thomas, Sylvia Plath, Seamus Heaney and Philip Larkin in the nation's affections, is completely untypical of her work. And she is irritated by its success.

Indeed, from her Gloucestershire cottage she has instructed her agent to restrict its appearance. "I think," said her publisher, Neil Astley, at Bloodaxe Publishing yesterday, "that she has grown to hate it."

The poem, called "Warning", which is a homage to elderly women behaving badly, is the frontrunner to win the BBC's nationwide poll to find The Nation's Favourite Poem. Phone-lines closed at noon yesterday and the result will not be announced until tonight on BBC Television. Ms Joseph's poem was ahead of all its rivals just hours before polling closed.

Her national popularity is now outstripping poets who are household names. Born in the same year as Sylvia Plath, she has been publishing prize-winning poetry since 1960. But, though gregarious herself, she has never been a part of the London literary, though she may well have entertained some of them - with her husband, she ran a pub in Shepherd's Bush, west London, in the mid-Sixties.

Ms Joseph grew up in Buckinghamshire, the daughter of Jewish though not religious parents. During the Second World War, she was evacuated to Devon, where the landscape

made a lasting impression upon her. At St Hilda's College Oxford she was the Senior Scholar of her year. She then worked as a reporter on the *Oxford Mail* and later on *Drum* in South Africa, but was expelled from the country.

With her husband, Terry, from whom she is now separated, she brought up three children, ran a pub and became a tutor with The Workers'



Jenny Joseph: frontrunner for nation's favourite poem

Education Association. She has lectured on poetry in Britain and abroad. She says she wrote as a child "to hold the world".

Later she became interested in what she termed the experiences of "ordinary citizens". She published lengthy narrative poems such as "The Life and Turgid Times of a Citizen", mixtures of contemporary dialogue, and passages of lyrical beauty. She has also written a novel, fables, and fairy stories. Often noted for a sardonic didacticism, her tales include - "Cutting off one's ears for

someone else is wrong". But it was "Warning", her 1974 ironic dramatic monologue on hopes of future unrespectability, that guaranteed her immortality. Philip Larkin immediately included it in his *The Oxford Book of Twentieth Century English Verse*.

Judith Palmer, head of Poetry International, Britain's biggest poetry festival at the South Bank Centre, said yesterday: "Jenny Joseph is certainly irritated by the success of this poem. Poets want to shout 'what about my other achievements'. Jenny is well-regarded in poetry circles, but she's not a public poet."

The popularity of "Warning" may spring from its inclusion in a number of school anthologies and Fleur Adcock's *Anthology of 20th Century Poetry*. In the United States so many people have photocopied and distributed the poem that its authorship has frequently got "lost" along the way. According to Mr Astley, "people in America tend to claim that their grandmother wrote it".

"Warning" is also viewed by some as a consummate example of the "popular poem". According to Judith Palmer, "it's the sort of poem that covers all bases and offends no one. It's anthologisable. It's a striking one-off party piece".

Ms Joseph was not at home yesterday, and unavailable for comment, her profile as enigmatically elusive as ever.

Michael Heath, page 17

A Poem for the Man from *The Independent*. 'Got It, Good'

The poet John Hegley (above) composed this poem exclusively for photographer Brian Harris yesterday at the Plaza at Covent Garden when he was appearing with other poets in a National Poetry Day event. Hegley is well known for his concise works.

You show me a poem

That I can understand

And I'll show you someone

Who makes money

WARNING

By Jenny Joseph

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes.

But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.

But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.

Informant
'hired as hit
man' in feud

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A police informant warned his handlers that he had been hired for a contract killing and then went ahead with an attempt to assassinate a man with family links to the criminal underworld, a court heard yesterday.

An Old Bailey jury was told that police marksmen, posing as gas workers, lay in wait for Michael Boyle, 48, as he carried out the hit in south London.

Mr Boyle, from Dublin, had fired three bullets into Anthony Brindle, his intended victim, and was "intent on finishing him off" when two armed officers opened fire hitting him five times, said Nigel Sweeney, prosecuting. Both men survived.

The shooting was part of a bloody feud between a south London family, the Brindles, and others with underworld connections, the jury was told.

Mr Sweeney revealed that before coming to England, Mr Boyle had been working as an informant for the Garda in Dublin. He allegedly told the police of a plan to murder members of the Brindle family in London and admitted that he had been recruited to carry out one of the contract killings.

He was warned by the Dublin police that he must distance himself from the hit and was told that they intended to inform the London police of the plot, the jury heard.

Mr Boyle then turned "rogue informant" as far as the Dublin police were concerned and secretly returned to London, said Mr Sweeney.

He denied attempting to murder Mr Brindle outside his home in Rotherhithe, south London, on 20 September last year. He has also denied pos-

session of two high powered handguns with intent to endanger life.

The prosecution alleges he was armed by David Roads, who acted as quartermaster in the operation. Mr Roads, 52, from south London denies attempted murder and possession of firearms.

Mr Boyle and Mr Roads were part of a plot to murder Anthony Brindle and possibly his brothers, Patrick and George, the court heard.

Mr Boyle told the police that a well known Dublin criminal, George Mitchell, was arranging to hit the Brindles on behalf of his friend, Peter Daly. Ignoring the police warning to stay out of the plan, Mr Boyle, disguised in a wig, drove in a stolen van to the square where his victim lived. Mr Boyle had a Browning semi automatic pistol and a fully loaded Magnum with him, said Mr Sweeney. But police had learned of the plan and two armed officers hid in the square inside a British Gas van.

But the police were taken by surprise. As Mr Brindle emerged from his home and walked to his car Mr Boyle opened fire from inside the van, hitting his victim in the elbow, chest and thighs.

As Mr Brindle ran back to his house in a bid to escape, Mr Boyle allegedly got out of the van to chase him. "He was holding his gun with seven bullets still in it - obviously intent on finishing him off," the prosecution told the jury.

The two armed officers got out of the gas van and challenged Mr Boyle. When he refused to stop they fired, hitting him in the elbow, chest, shoulder blades and left heel, the court was told.

The case continues.

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Bottomley bans hard-core porn TV channel

STEPHEN GOODWIN and CHARLIE BAIN

The Secretary of State for National Heritage, Virginia Bottomley, yesterday signed an order banning the hard-core pornographic satellite television channel *Rendez-Vous*. Announcing the ban to applause at the Tory party conference, Mrs Bottomley said that hard-core pornography was unacceptable and that new channels must not mean lower standards. She said she was banning the selling of "smart cards" which give viewers access, because as a "politician and a parent" she would not tolerate "gratuitous violence and filth" on television.

"Television is a powerful medium," she said. "It is overwhelmingly a force for good. I want it to open up opportunities for our children. I do not want television to deliver a squalid diet of filth and degradation... the British public can be assured that we will use all available powers to ensure standards are maintained. Protecting the welfare of our children is our paramount concern."

channel began broadcasting in September last year. With Britain as one of its main targets, it included in its schedules English and French porn stars advertising mail-order sex aids.

It is the third hard-core pornography channel to be banned in the last three years. In 1993 the channel *Red Hot* Dutch was outlawed and two years later Britain was the first European country to issue a prohibition order on *TV Erotica*, billed as "Europe's hottest adult movie channel".

All three stations are part of a wider spectrum of similar channels available in Britain, broadcasting hard-core pornography from abroad without a licence from the Independent Television Commission. Such stations do not sell subscriptions in Britain and, although there is a black market in pirate decoders and smartcards, disable pirate viewers by changing their encryption codes.

The ITC has issued licences to a number of soft-porn channels which are supposed to pass an "18" film certificate to qualify. Among these is the *Adult Channel*, despite receiving a formal warning from the

ITC in 1994 for transmitting illegally in encrypted form. Others to have licences are the *Adam and Eve* channel, *Playboy TV*, *TVX Fantasy Channel*, and *Babylon Blue*, which is backed by Sunday Sport owner David Sullivan.

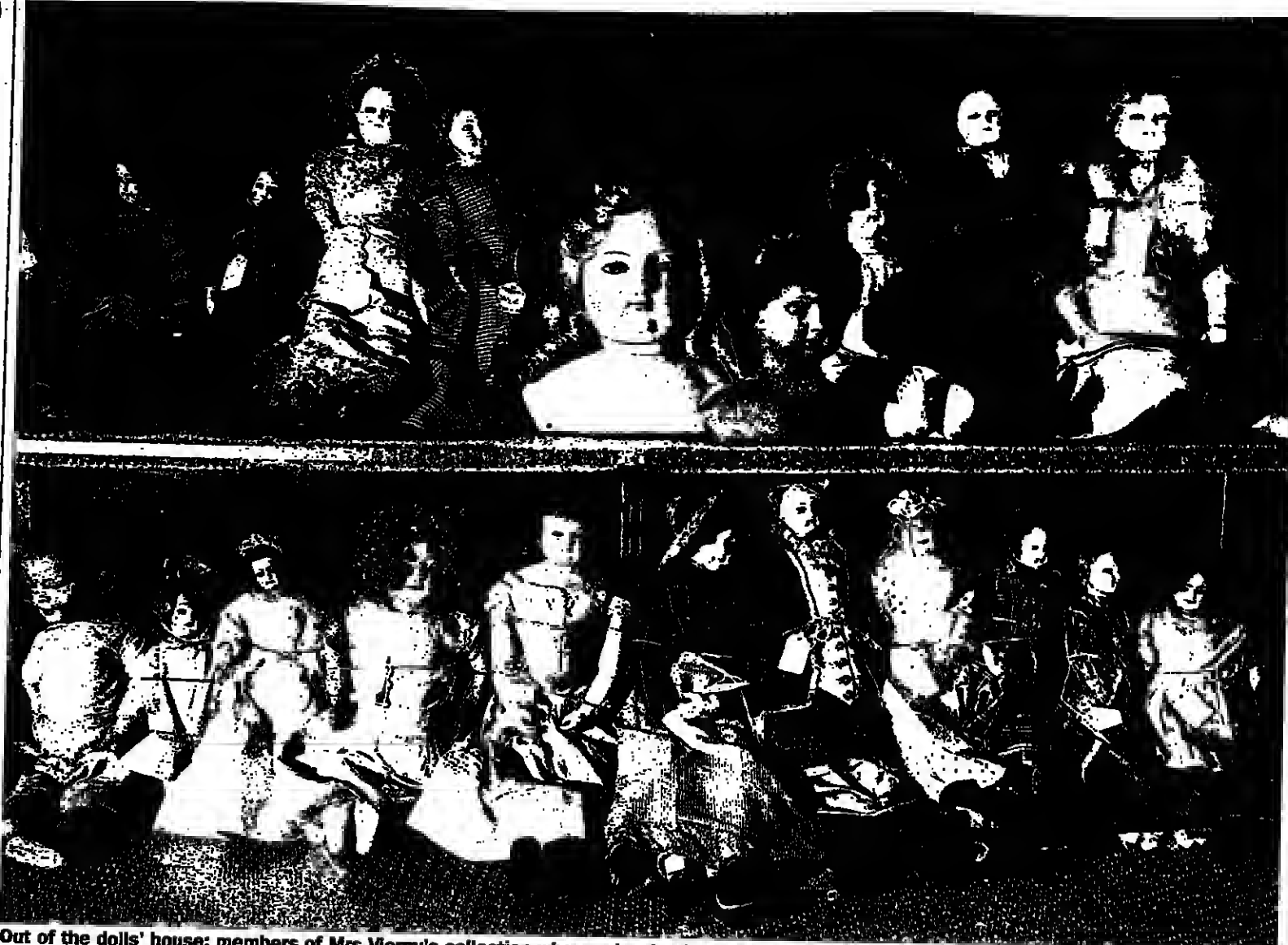
The *Adam and Eve* channel sparked outrage last year when it unveiled plans to screen pay-per-view films as early as 10pm and *Playboy TV* was plunged into controversy when the Methodist Church and the Church of England sold their shares in *Babylon Blue*, which has a stake in the channel, in protest at its launch.

Roger Kingsbourg, the manager of *Rendez-Vous*, yesterday stressed that the move would not affect the station's broadcasts which British viewers with smart cards would continue to receive.

Speaking from the channel's Paris headquarters, he told BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme: "It will not stop us at all. How can you ban a smart card? That is technically impossible. It is the possession of a private person, which they are entitled to use."

Tory conference, pages 6 and 7

Lifelong passions: Dolls go under the hammer to save collector's museum



Out of the dolls' house: members of Mrs Vierny's collection who are leaving home to raise cash for a new museum Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

Sotheby's doll sale should fetch £3m

LOUISE JURY

The owner of some of the world's finest dolls is to sell her collection to save her other great passion - a museum dedicated to the sculptor who immortalised her. Mrs Dina Vierny, the muse and model for the artist Aristide Maillol, is to offer her 500 dolls, together with dolls' houses and automata, for auction at Sotheby's in London this month.

The proceeds, conservatively expected to exceed £3m will go towards her recently opened museum in Paris. The ambitious plan for a grand exhibition of Mr Maillol's works, which were left to Mrs Vierny when the artist died in 1944, has run

seriously over-budget, and in a toss-up between the two collections, the sculpture won.

Speaking from the museum in the rue de Grenelle, Paris, yesterday, Mrs Vierny, 77, said: "I am very sad. But the transformation of the museum has been expensive and I have to pay the bank. I collected the dolls over almost 50 years. But for this, I am willing to sacrifice them."

The collection amounts to more than 650 items and made Mrs Vierny one of the world's last great doll collectors, according to Bunny Campione, Sotheby's dolls expert. Mrs Campione said: "It is just stunning, a lifetime collection of real dedication to something she adores. It must be absolutely



A George 11 wooden doll estimate up to £35,000

terrible for her to see it going under the hammer."

ly age. She was friends with the writers Andre Gide and Jacques Prevert, and posed for Matisse, Bonnard and Dufy. But it was with Maillol, this famous trio's lesser-known friend, that she was most closely connected. She acted as model for his austere sculptures of the human body and he left her the copyright to all his work when he died.

Highlights of the two-day sale on 17 and 18 October will be several dolls each expected to fetch tens of thousands of pounds. The most valuable are two rare bisque swivel-headed dolls made in France around 1876. One of them is believed to have been made by the firm of Jumeau on the instructions of the French government for

the World Exposition in Philadelphia that coincided with America's centenary.

Another rarity is a doll made at the beginning of this century by the German Kammer and Reinhardt factory that Mrs Campione bought from Sotheby's on Mrs Vierny's behalf for, at the time in 1989, a world record price of £90,000.

Mrs Campione said: "I had to ring her at midnight and I was absolutely horrified I'd done the wrong thing." She said, however, that she had not.

The oldest dolls in the sale are an English mother and baby pair made in wood by an unknown but skilled woodworker at around 1690 and 1730 respectively.

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CONSERVATIVES IN BOURNEMOUTH

YESTERDAY AT THE CONFERENCE

MAIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workfare pilot schemes extended to cover 100,000 unemployed
Tightening rules on school discipline
National Reading Challenge for children
Awards for Young Achievers
£300m a year IT fund for schools and society after the Millennium

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Gordon Brown bases his policies on the Dolly Parton school of economics - an unbelievable figure blown out of all proportion, with no visible means of support," Kenneth Clarke

"Last week the Sun fell for Tony Blair's speech. This week they fell for the so-called Diana tapes. Two fakes in a fortnight," Michael Heseltine

"Some Euro-sceptics gloat over the thought of post-defeat bloodbaths; purges on the scale of Stalin... Let old polecats do what they do best and sit in their trees spitting," Tom Spencer MEP

"In order to win we need three extra policies - unity, unity and unity," Michael Portillo

"Oh, they do like to lie beside the seaside," Labour rebuttal unit

GOOD DAY... BAD DAY... DEVIL OF THE DAY

Kenneth Clarke predictions of a hostile reception proved unfounded. Witty told the Cabinet line

Brian Mawhinney party chairman produced a "defector" from Labour only to have him unmasked as a Tory activist

Sir James Goldsmith even more than usual for failing to trumpet Britain's achievement and for his cynicism

THE CROWD-PULLERS ON THE FRINGE

Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, full-blooded attack on the xenophobia of the SNP, 200 people

Norman Lamont, calling for the abolition of the top rate of income tax and a single standard rate, 90 people

ERIC CANTONISM OF THE DAY

"You can make a free market with a thousand chickens. Can you make a free market with 1,000 chickens and two or three foxes?" Belgian Euro-sceptic baffling Norman Lamont on the fringe

THE PARTIES TO BE SEEN AT

The Saatchi party, drinks with newly ennobled Maurice in a marquee
Lord Heseltine's party in his suite at the Highcliff
European Commission - spot the sceptics accepting Brussels hospitality at the Highcliff

SIGHTINGS

Jim Davidson, comedian, and Patti Boulaye, soul singer, guests at the Conference Ball

RAPTUREMETER

Michael Heseltine 4 min 25 sec
Deputy Prime Minister
Kenneth Clarke 4 min 20 sec
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Gillian Shephard 1 min 48 sec
Education
Michael Portillo 1 min 45 sec
Defence
Virginia Bottomley 1 min 32 sec
National Heritage

TODAY'S BUSINESS

Financial appeal by Lord Parkinson. Closing address by John Major. Compiled by STEPHEN GOODWIN

Clarke toes single currency line

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

The golden rule of Tory policy was that taxes would only be cut when it could be afforded. Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said yesterday.

He told the Conservative Party conference in Bournemouth that sticking to that rule was an essential prerequisite for earning and keeping the trust of the British people.

Labour immediately denounced Mr Clarke for saying that the Tories were instinctive

tax-cutters - having introduced 22 tax increases since the 1992 election, including the imposition of value-added tax on domestic power and fuel bills.

Mr Clarke said that the successful economies of the modern world would be the low-tax economies. But he added: "Affordable tax cuts are good for the economy. Unaffordable tax cuts can only damage the economy." That was why the key to tax cuts in next month's Budget was tight control over public spending, while ensuring that priority areas like schools, hos-

pitals and the police were properly funded.

However, the main focus of the Chancellor's speech was the section dealing with the European single currency - the ultra-sensitive area that left the Tories so damagingly divided up to the conference season.

Mr Clarke told representatives that there was more that united them than divided them in Europe. They all supported a partnership of nations, the single market, free-market economics, budget-cutting and the fight against fraud.

They all opposed a United States of Europe, the social chapter, protectionism and over-regulation.

Sticking rigidly to the agreed Cabinet line, the Chancellor said: "We have business to do in Europe, and we must therefore play a powerful part in determining how business is to be done in Europe."

"It is no good creating a modern enterprise economy in Britain, if we do not defend the interests of that enterprise economy in Europe."

"Now economic and monetary union is on the agenda. The Prime Minister and I intend to be there, talking about it, influencing it, and defending the interests of the British economy. If a Euro-zone is created in the middle of our single market, we will be directly affected, whatever choice - in or out - we make on membership."

Britain's choice will be free. By staying in the game, we sacrifice nothing, and we gain much. At every stage, we have the right to say no.

If it was decided to join the single currency in the next Parliament, there would be a referendum, he said.

Mr Clarke then added his voice to the appeal for unity, saying: "Let us spend the next six months and the election uniting behind that policy, attacking the Labour Party, talking about the economy, and winning the next election."

History becomes a Tory story



DAVID AARONOVITCH

It was a day of transformations and continuities in Bournemouth. Continuities came first, as the Tories made speeches about the National Heritage. And within minutes we were plunged into heated dissent, Tory conference-style.

A woman delegate wished, she said, to oppose that section of the motion that called upon the Government to remind the world of the unique contribution of Britain to culture, democracy and cooking (I think it was cooking). Why? Surely she wasn't about to castigate the movers for their incredible arrogance, or to ask why so few Italians, Americans or Japanese stow away on planes and boats, seeking by hook or crook to make their homes in Kings Cross, or Saatchi's Street? No such luck. "The rest of the world," she declared, "does not need reminding. They envy our traditions and admire our culture." Of course, "obvious. If you live in the country of Leonardo, the Colosseum and Venice, how inadequate you must feel when confronted with



Hands up: Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, soaks up the applause after his conference address yesterday. Photograph: David Rose

Take That, HMS Belfast and Spudnik.

But, as Virginia Bottomley made clear, heritage is not just British. It is Tory. First she referred to something called "John Major's National Lottery" (a bit like Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*). Then she appeared to lay claim to a series of British monuments, including Stonehenge. Which solves one mystery that has baffled archaeologists - the massive stone circle was built by Conservatives.

Michael Portillo came next and with him the first of the transformations, that of the organic Defence Secretary into a tedious responsible politician. There was no declaration of war on imaginary enemies, no blood-curdling call to repel Belgian phantasms. Instead we got Little Noddy's guide to Tory defence policy and the armed forces, all in one-syllable words.

The hair was slightly calmer too, his keratinous wings had been clipped, and the whole lot is now swept back and heavily greased. His tie was a pattern of soft fruits rather than crossed bayonets. With his terrific suits, sculpted, heavy features and large lips, he now looks like a cross between an up-market mannequin and an expensive ventriloquist's dummy - Educating Versace.

This was his closing peroration as I recall it: "Britain is back. They want to throw it all away. We will not let them. We relish the challenge. We know our duty. We offer ourselves to the people. We wear good suits. They want to take them off. We know our parents. They do not

defence secretaries, say, well-being in chancellors has historically been measured by girth. Remember the Lawson boom? Ken said nothing he hasn't said for years, claimed no more, promised no more, yet prolonged acclamation transformed him from villain to hero. But why? What effort of will made him the conference darling? He was transformed by something that suffuses Tories here. Something they have only just begun to understand. He was transformed by the fear of lost power.

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APR	12.9%	12.9%
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Heseltine rounds on Goldsmith's poll party

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Sir James Goldsmith bore the brunt of a blistering attack on the Government's critics by Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who yesterday accused the millionaire Referendum Party leader of commuting from his mansions abroad to threaten the Tories with defeat at home.

The speech drew a stamping, shouting ovation from the conference faithful, and it is expected to herald the beginning of an all-out attack on the Referendum Party by Tory leaders. He finished by signalling V for victory and five more years in office.

Mr Heseltine also turned his fire on the Tory Euro-sceptic rebels, warning them in the bluntest terms that the Tories could face 17 years in opposition like Labour if they appeared divided at the next election.

"Let me be frank - if you want Labour in power, just go on behaving the way Labour behaved. That kept them in opposition for 17 years," he said. If they continued to cause divisions "at a time of maximum damage" to the party, they would deserve "utter contempt".

But the Deputy Prime Minister reserved his most withering blast for the leader of the Referendum Party. It was a high-risk strategy, raising Sir James's credibility, and there was some questioning in the Heseltine camp before deciding to go ahead with the attack.

The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, was cautious about criticising Tory supporters of the Referendum Party earlier this

week after it was disclosed that former Tory treasurer, Lord McAlpine, had defected and would be chairing Sir James's party conference next week.

But Mr Heseltine decided to take off the gloves. His success with the audience yesterday means his attack is almost certain to be followed up with a co-ordinated attack on the Referendum Party by the Tory leadership in the run-up to the election.

"Do you really want Labour to win?" Mr Heseltine told Sir James. "I say this to you. You're lucky. As you commute between the luxury of your hacienda in Mexico, your chateau in France, and your palazzo in Venice, just remember the rest of us."

"We would have to stay here. We would have to suffer under them [Labour]."

The Tory high command has been trying to avoid a confrontation with Sir James and his high-profile candidates, including the former Thatcher economic adviser, Sir Alan Walters. Some Euro-sceptic MPs at Bournemouth have been predicting that at least 150 MPs and candidates will give clear support in their election addresses to the Referendum Party's demands for a national referendum on Britain's membership of Europe.

The *Independent* has learned that John Redwood, the former Cabinet minister, reported to the Tory leadership that it was possible Sir James would back down if the Government offered two referendums on a common market or common government. The Tory party rejected the idea.

Portillo's unity call isolates Euro-sceptics

COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Portillo yesterday closed Cabinet ranks against Tory rebels calling for a change of policy on the European single currency, and won a standing ovation with a call for "unity, unity, unity".

The Secretary of State for Defence's "comeback" speech marked his rehabilitation as one of the leading right-wing candidates for the Tory leadership and sent a clear message to his Euro-sceptic supporters to end the public splits over Europe.

"One thing that has always marked the Conservative Party apart is its will to govern and its determination to win. But I tell this conference: in order to win we need three extra policies - unity, unity, unity."

Mr Portillo became the third Euro-sceptic Cabinet minister in two days, following Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, to call for unity behind John Major's

"wait and see" approach, isolating those outside the Government, including John Redwood, who want to rule out Britain's entry into a single European currency.

Sources close to Mr Portillo told *The Independent* the Defence Secretary has privately warned Euro-sceptics on the backbench that they risk losing the election by causing divisions in the party, and being blamed for a general election defeat.

"He has told the Euro-sceptics that John Major will not change the policy, and they would be better off attacking Labour," said one close friend.

Mr Portillo's call for unity produced the loudest cheers for his speech in the defence debate. His supporters said his performance had repaired the damage to his reputation caused last year at the conference when he invoked the SAS to show his own strength as Defence Secretary.

Doubts were raised about his judgement after last year's speech, and he was eclipsed on the Euro-sceptic right by Mr Redwood, but his supporters said his performance yesterday had recaptured his reputation as Margaret Thatcher's natural long-term successor.

"Margaret Thatcher set the tone for the week, and the Euro-sceptics are rallying behind. Michael's speech was serious, and brilliant."

The man who is no longer a stuffed shirt. Page 9

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Hacked off: Dr Mawhinney (left) with Marco Forgiione, the Tories' wayward 'defector' Photograph: Andrew Bauman

Mawhinney's defective ploy

JOHN RENTOU
Political Correspondent

The story of the "defector who wasn't" should have been good news for Brian Mawhinney yesterday. Instead, the Tory chairman found himself fleeing into the conference centre pursued by journalists.

When he recruited admitted at a seaside news conference that he had never been a Labour member, Dr Mawhinney cut questions short and fled to the hall with his charge, Marco Forgiione, 26, a caterer from Weymouth, once worked for the Labour MP Keith Vaz but a Tory news release saying he had once "joined the socialists" turned out to be misleading.

Asked if he had ever been a Labour member, Mr Forgiione said he was "a firm supporter" before admitting he had never held a party card. Later, he said he once voted Labour in a local election and had "abstained" in the 1992 election. He had been a "parliamentary assistant, adviser and speechwriter" to Mr Vaz, a spokesman on environment issues. Mr Vaz issued a statement saying: "... While he briefly worked with me in 1993-94 he showed no interest in politics. He was never involved in any party political issues."

Mr Forgiione said he had "very much enjoyed working" for Mr Vaz but did not like Labour's "whole ethos". Prompted by a Tory press officer, he singled out the European Social Chapter and national minimum wage.

The story later took a new twist as it emerged Mr Forgiione's non-defection had occurred some time ago. Yeovil Liberal Democrats said he had been an active Tory locally for about two years. "He is a frequent correspondent in the local paper in support of the Conservative cause, often writing from the local Tory HQ," said a Liberal Democrat spokesman. Mr Forgiione said he joined the party last year.

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news

Schools gain new power to ban disrupters

Tougher rules will exclude unruly pupils from class but parents' right to appeal is sliding

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

New powers for schools to exclude disruptive pupils were announced yesterday by Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment. Her announcement came as new research revealed that the dice in exclusion cases are already weighted heavily against parents and children and in favour of schools.

An education Bill to be published shortly will limit parents' right to choose a school once their child has been excluded twice. It will also give schools the right to representation at independent appeal panels on exclusions and will impose on panels the duty to consider the interests of other school children.

Yet research from London University's Institute of Education shows that appeals panels overturn heads' and governors' decisions in only 0.5 per cent of cases. Dr David Gillborn's review of exclusions research shows that many pupils are being excluded for comparatively minor cases of discipline, a breach of Government rules.

Parents who try to challenge heads' and governors' decisions face find schools do not tell them of their rights. The injustice of many exclusion decisions is all the more serious because fewer than one in three excluded pupils ever returns to



Out of favour: Richard Wilding, 13, is one schoolboy who, already expelled from Glaisdale School, Nottingham, knows the ignominy of failing to live up to previous expectations Photograph: Edward Sykes

school, according to the study.

The research challenges commonly-held views about exclusion. Only a minority of pupils is permanently excluded for bullying and attacking other pupils and teachers, says Dr Gillborn. "In practice, therefore, exclusion is used much

more widely than the official definition would allow."

Only 3.2 per cent of parents lodge an appeal against their child's exclusion, according to the research. Parents are often not given the information they need about appeals, and sometimes their rights are denied.

The proceedings may be unfair to parents because schools fail to tell them in advance of all the allegations against their children, says Dr Gillborn.

Mrs Shephard said schools will also be able to exclude pupils for longer periods. At present, they are able to ban a

child for a maximum of 15 days a term or permanently exclude them. The bill will extend the limit to 45 days. Teachers will be allowed to detain pupils after school without parental consent, and refuse to admit a child unless parents sign a contract promising to obey school

rules. Education authorities will have to draw up plans to help schools deal with disruptive pupils and educate children who are permanently excluded.

Headteachers welcomed the proposals to tighten up discipline but Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National

Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Overall the proposals fall lamentably to match up to the threat posed by the developing crisis of hard-core violence and disruption being perpetrated by a small but constantly rising number of young-

sters. There is an emerging second generation of violent disrupters whose parents are at the root of the problem." Mr de Gruchy's union recently threatened to strike in several schools following the overturning of a decision to permanently exclude disruptive pupils.

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Rio summit's green pledges to be broken

NICHOLAS SCHOON
Paris

The great majority of developed countries will fail to keep Rio Earth Summit promises to stabilise rising emissions of greenhouse gases, oil company executives and civil servants were told yesterday.

Lee Solsbury, a senior official with the International Energy Agency told an oil industry seminar in Paris that the latest forecasts from the countries themselves showed their total annual emissions of carbon dioxide, the most important of the man-made greenhouse gases, would rise by between 8 and 14 per cent between 1990 and 2000.

Yet at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, presidents and prime ministers of the rich countries signed a treaty in which they undertook to freeze emissions at their 1990 level by the end of the century.

Every year since then, their overall output of climate changing CO₂ produced by burning fossil fuels, has gone on rising, said Mr Solsbury. "Emissions are likely to grow substantially in the absence of further government intervention," he concluded. His agency is part of the OECD, the club of wealthy developed nations.

The exceptions are Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany and Britain. The first two hardly count, since they only make a minuscule contribution to global CO₂ output.

Britain and Germany are world leaders in pressing for countries to take the global warming threat seriously, but their emissions cuts are mainly the result of historical flukes.

Britain has recently almost closed down its coal industry, and coal is the fuel which produces most CO₂ per unit of energy. Gas, which produces far less, has been substituted. And with German unification the notoriously energy-inefficient heavy industries of Eastern Germany are being shut down or modernised.

For the rest of the developed world CO₂ emissions are forecast to carry on rising beyond 2000. Yet environmental organisations and the European Union are calling for post-2000 cuts, to protect humanity from the threat of destructive climate change in the next century.

A tougher climate change treaty is due to be negotiated between states by the end of next year. But it looks unlikely to achieve any substantial reductions in the world's growth in CO₂ emissions, now rising at 2 per cent a year.

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شكراً من الأهل



Showing his shirt is Major's way of baring his soul

CLARE GARNER

John Major is no longer a stuffed shirt. Psychologists and social commentators yesterday described the Prime Minister's canny performance as sexy, youthful, blokish - even Blairish.

Sexy, youthful and a step closer to Oasis, possibly, but the Prime Minister was following Tony Benn

altogether like a university student, naughtier in some way. Labour accused Mr Major of copying Tony Blair but the veteran left-wing MP Tony Benn took the credit for originating the style of appearing in shirt-sleeves. "Me, I have been doing it for years," he said.

Peter York, social commentator and co-author of the *Sloane Ranger's Handbook*, was unimpressed by Mr Major's stunt. "Please, Prime Minister, don't go doing it again," he implored. "Prime ministers should be buttoned up to the neck and wear spats. I like them to look smart and clean and so, I think, does most of the nation in their heart of hearts."

Andrew Neil, the famous-ly shirt-sleeved former editor of the *Sunday Times* who now presents a political programme for the BBC, was yesterday anxious to distance himself from the style. "I don't want to be associated with the sartorial style of John Major," he said. "I'm putting my jacket on."

Oliver James, a clinical psychologist, felt Mr Major's sartorial stunt worked a treat. The implicit message, he said, was that the Prime Minister had nothing to hide.

"The symbol was the naked and the clothed," he said. "Clothing equals deception. Nakedness equals truth and authenticity. They were trying to draw attention to the difference between the honesty and earthiness of Major and the artifice of Blair wearing his jacket and clothing his speech in artificial rhetorical language."

Professor Gary Cooper, an occupational psychologist at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, believes Mr Major has found a format that suits his personality. "He has played to his strength, that is, folksy, down-to-earth, ordinary," Professor Cooper said.

Mr Major had struck a daring pose, he added. "It's innovative. It's saying, 'This is a party that's prepared to break the mould.' It could also be saying, 'I've got nothing to lose, we're so behind in the opinion polls. I'll just be me.'" There may be one satisfied, or semi-satisfied, customer out there: Lady Archer. The Tory peer's wife says a shirt, with the sleeves rolled up, makes a man look his sexiest.

Police volunteers to have CS sprays

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Part-time volunteer police officers are to be armed with CS sprays in a move that has outraged civil liberty campaigners who believe the public could be endangered.

Special constables in North Yorkshire are to be given several hours of training, before they are equipped with the hand-held devices while on patrol and during other operational duties. Other forces are expected to adopt a similar policy. Constabularies throughout England and Wales were given the go-ahead last August to issue CS sprays.

The civil rights group Liberty yesterday expressed deep concern about the development and argued that unpaid officers with limited experience should not be armed with such potentially dangerous equipment.

The incapacitant takes immediate effect and causes streaming eyes and nose, eyelid spasm, breathing difficulties, and in some cases blistering of the skin. Two chief constables - of the Surrey and Hertfordshire forces - are refusing to arm their officers with CS spray because of the possible side-effects.

The spray was introduced to tackle the growing number of attacks on police officers. Six-month trials held earlier this year resulted in a drop in the number of assaults. CS sprays were used on 582 occasions during which five people needed hospital treatment but no one suffered long-term damage.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, said: "We are already

very concerned about the use of CS gas sprays by full-time trained officers. Giving special constables access as well is bound to lead to further risk to members of the public."

"Specials are much more likely to be panicked into using the sprays when confronted with difficult situations than the far more experienced full-time regular police officers."

Liberty has highlighted two cases in which they argue CS spray was incorrectly used. One last March involved a man who died in police custody in east London after CS gas was sprayed into his face although his arms were handcuffed behind his back. However, the police have stressed that a post-mortem examination found that Ibrahim Sey, 29, was suffering from heart disease. In the second case a group of nightclubbers is to sue Merseyside Police after officers allegedly released CS spray into their coach, and shut the doors.

But Tony Lidgate, spokesman for North Yorkshire police, which has about 350 special constables, defended the force's decision to arm the volunteers. He said: "Nobody in the force will go out with a CS spray until they have been fully trained by police instructors. We believe our specials should be properly protected. They are people who are giving their own time and putting their life and limb on the line for the community."

A Home Office spokeswoman added: "If chief constables want to equip their specials with CS spray it is entirely up to them. The chief constables are there to ensure that all officers are properly trained."

Half of smokers risk death by 70s

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

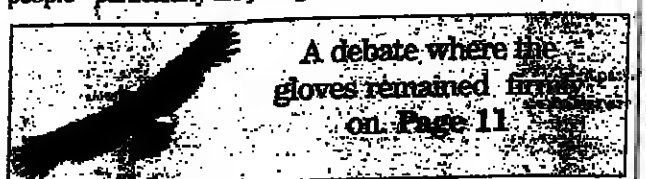
Lifelong smokers are about half as likely to reach the age of 73 as non-smokers, according to a report which estimates for the first time the impact of tobacco on the survival prospects of British men.

The British Regional Heart Study followed up more than 7,700 men for up to 15 years, and found that those who had started smoking by the age of 20 and never quit had a 42 per cent chance of reaching 73, compared with 78 per cent of men who had never smoked.

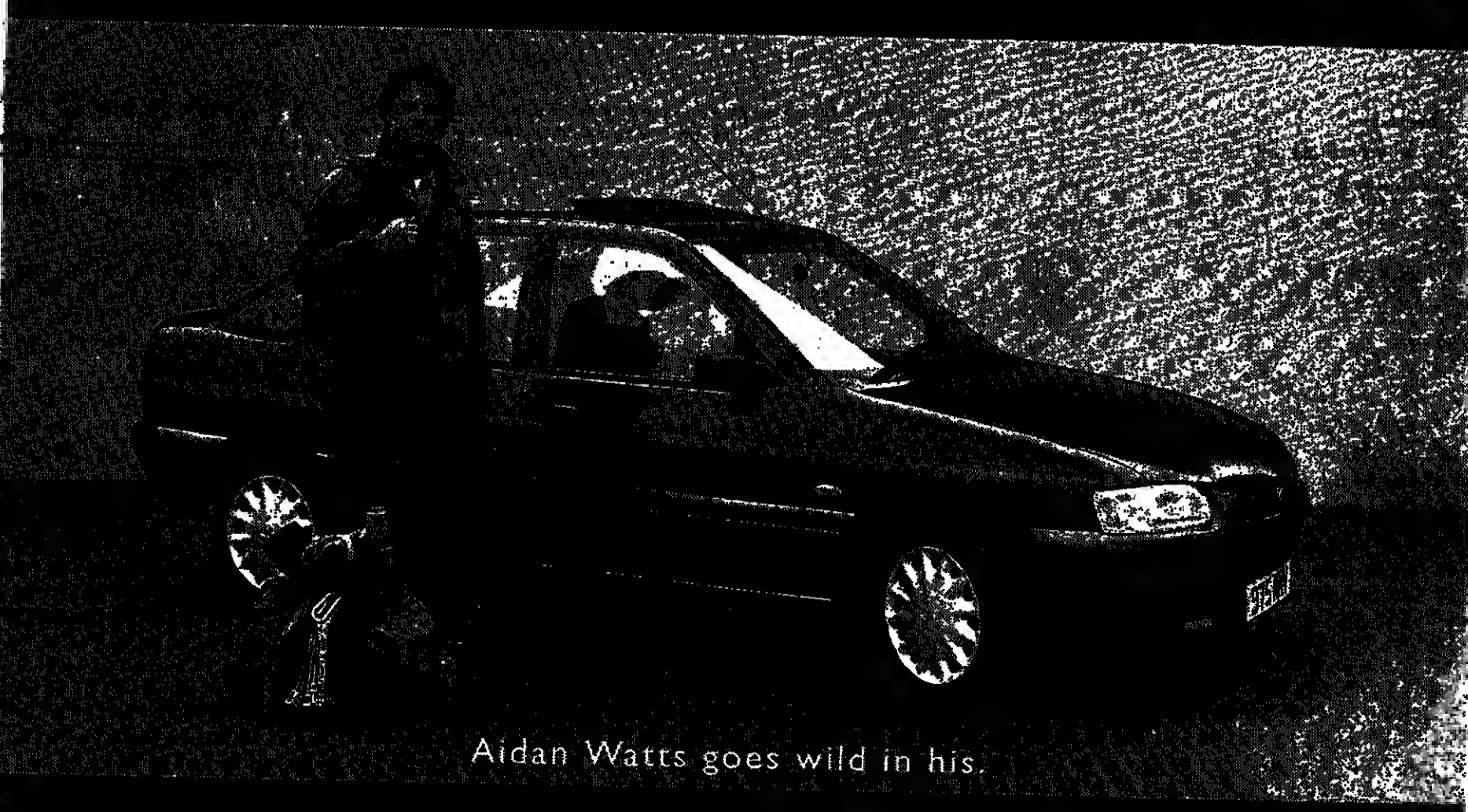
Dr Andrew Phillips of the Royal Free Hospital, London, said the new data would help people - particularly the young

understand more easily the dangers of smoking. By the end of the study in December 1993, 127 life-long non-smokers had died compared with 560 lifelong smokers. Causes of death potentially related to smoking included heart disease and lung disease and cancer, including of the mouth, throat, pancreas, respiratory and urinary systems.

The men, who were recruited from a single representative GP's practice in 24 towns in Britain, were between 40 and 59 when entered into the study between 1978 and 1980, according to the report in tomorrow's issue of the *British Medical Journal*. More than three-quarters had smoked at some time in their life and the average age of smoking their first cigarette was 16.



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news

Council shelves water highway plan



Project to link North Sea with Irish Sea has angered environmentalists

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

It might seem like the most ambitious scheme since Moses tried to part the Red Sea, but a plan to build a 53-mile "water highway" from the North Sea to the Irish Sea is to be presented to councillors across the north of England over the next month.

Yesterday, the scheme, estimated to cost £6bn, received a cool welcome from the North of England Councils Association and it has already attracted the wrath of environmentalists. But the promoter of the idea, a retired engineer called Derek Russell, is undeterred and sees it as the answer to the problems of pollution and gridlock in the roads of the South East.

With tentative backing from AMEC, the engineering firm, and a couple of other companies, Mr Russell has created the Western Water Highway Association to push forward the idea and the Association hopes soon to begin a feasibility study.

Mr Russell does not like the term "canal" as it suggests "a few sleepy fisherman on a seven-foot wide stretch of water". Instead he sees the link between the Solway Firth and the Tyne at Newcastle as a water highway, like the one recently built in central Europe linking the Danube with the Rhine.

He reckons it would carry around 200 million tonnes of freight a year between emerging markets between Northern and Eastern Europe and the North West and Ireland. He

said: "Why should all these goods go down south where there is already too much traffic and the pollution is giving asthma to millions of children?"

While arguing that the environmental benefits far outweigh the disadvantages, he accepts that there are some problems in the Tyne Valley west of Newcastle, but says there is no threat to Hadrian's Wall: "It would only cross the line of the wall at one point, but there is nothing left of the wall for about six miles on either side."

However, Roger Higman, transport campaigner of Friends of the Earth, says the effect of the scheme would be devastating: "The Solway Firth, one of the most important areas for birds, would have to be dredged. There would be lots of new housing built in rural areas and in any case the whole thing is totally unnecessary. Suez and Panama might be good short-cuts, but this one is not worth the trouble. We will be fighting it all the way."

After yesterday's meeting at Hartlepool Civic Centre, Councillor John McCormack, chairman of NECA, said they were not adopting either a "for or against" stance at this stage, but pressing for improvements to existing rail and road links.

He added: "This does not mean we are against the Western Water Highway, but we want the emphasis to be on the immediate problems which can be dealt with in the short term before talking about something more grandiose and for the next century."



Hadrian's Wall (top, left) marks the route of the canal, which will dwarf the Liverpool-Leeds canal (above).

Photographs: English Heritage/Brian Duff

Health chiefs 'waste millions'

SUSAN EMMETT

Health authorities in England and Wales are wasting millions of pounds because of bad book-keeping, according to a survey published yesterday.

Research into the purchasing patterns of seven unmet health authorities found that £651.9m is being wasted through ignorance about which services authorities buy and what they spend.

The study, by the Anti-Rationing group, a think tank and research body, was prompted by the rationing of leukaemia treatment for 11-year-old Jamie Bowen - Child B - by the Cambridge and Huntingdon health authority.

The report examines what health authorities were paying for 40 different services and found a general pattern of inappropriate spending and massive overspending.

The findings published in the *Health Service Journal*, show that health authorities knew how much money they had spent on emergency services such as casualty, surgical emergency and maternity only 65 per cent of the time.

They could also only identify 66 per cent of spending on non-acute services such as care for the elderly and mentally ill. And only 69 per cent of spending on community care services such as psychiatric nursing, drug abuse and occupational therapy could be pinpointed.

One of the health authorities investigated was unable to supply any cost break down at all.

The problem arises because of the usual practice of block buying, in which a range of services are bought in a single package. This does not allow health authorities to distinguish between the services and allocate money accordingly, says the anti-rationing group.

The report says millions are being mis-spent on buying services which are not yet proven to be effective, blind buying and overpaying on certain services.

A Department of Health spokesman said: "If anyone has evidence of conspicuous waste, it should be put to the health authority concerned and the National Health Executive."

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Platitudes fly as Kemp bottles out

The vice-presidential debate was strong on civility and weak on beastliness, writes David Usborne

St Petersburg, Florida – If it is a fact, as the commentators constantly assert, that voters in America dislike partisan politics and negative campaigning, then the "Al Gore-Jack Kemp Show", which was aired from here on Wednesday night, will surely have been a national smash hit. Any television critic, however, might have some doubts.

On stage for 90 minutes in a shore-side theatre under the gaze of the network cameras, the Vice-President, Al Gore, and his Republican challenger, Jack Kemp, served up a debate that was crammed with sometimes esoteric policy substance but which was almost bereft of gloves-off combat.

The pair, both of whom can sometimes appear more like university dons than political candidates, lingered on economic policy and on differences between the supply-side, tax-cutting position of Mr Kemp and the more cautious Clinton-Gore approach for limited tax cuts and protecting recent progress in cutting the deficit. Other topics broached included abortion, foreign policy and affirmative action.

Anticipation of the debate had been high because of its potential as a preview of the presidential match-up in four years. Mr Gore, 48, is widely seen as the logical Democratic nominee in 2000 if Clinton-Gore wins this time. Mr Kemp, 61, whose choice as running-mate to Bob Dole drew much praise, is also seen as his party's likely choice next time round.

But those who had been waiting for that one zinger – of the "You're no Jack Kennedy" ilk (Lloyd Bentsen to Dan Quayle in the 1988 vice-presidential debate) – were disappointed. So probably were many Republican supporters who had been frustrated that Mr Dole had not taken a stronger line of attack in his first debate with Bill Clinton on Sunday and who were looking to Mr Kemp to play the attack-dog role.

Journalists accommodated in an adjacent ice-hockey rink sagged as it became clear the event was going to be all civility and no beastliness. "If this is the presidential debate in 2000, America is going to ask 'What else is on?'" ventured one political editor.

Many wished rhetorically for the return of Admiral James Stockdale to the stage and who, as Ross Perot's 1992 running-mate, stunned the audience by asking "Who am I? Why am I here?" The meatiest moments

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

came during discussion of economic policy. Mr Kemp aggressively sold his platform's promise to cut taxes across the board by 15 per cent, insisting it would lead to a doubling of the American economy in 15 years. Overstepping anything Mr Dole has yet to suggest, Mr Kemp vowed that a Dole-Kemp administration would move on to scrap the existing tax code altogether. "We're going to repeal the 83-year-old code and replace the 7.5 million words with a flatter, fairer, simpler code. And that will take this country roaring into the 21st century."

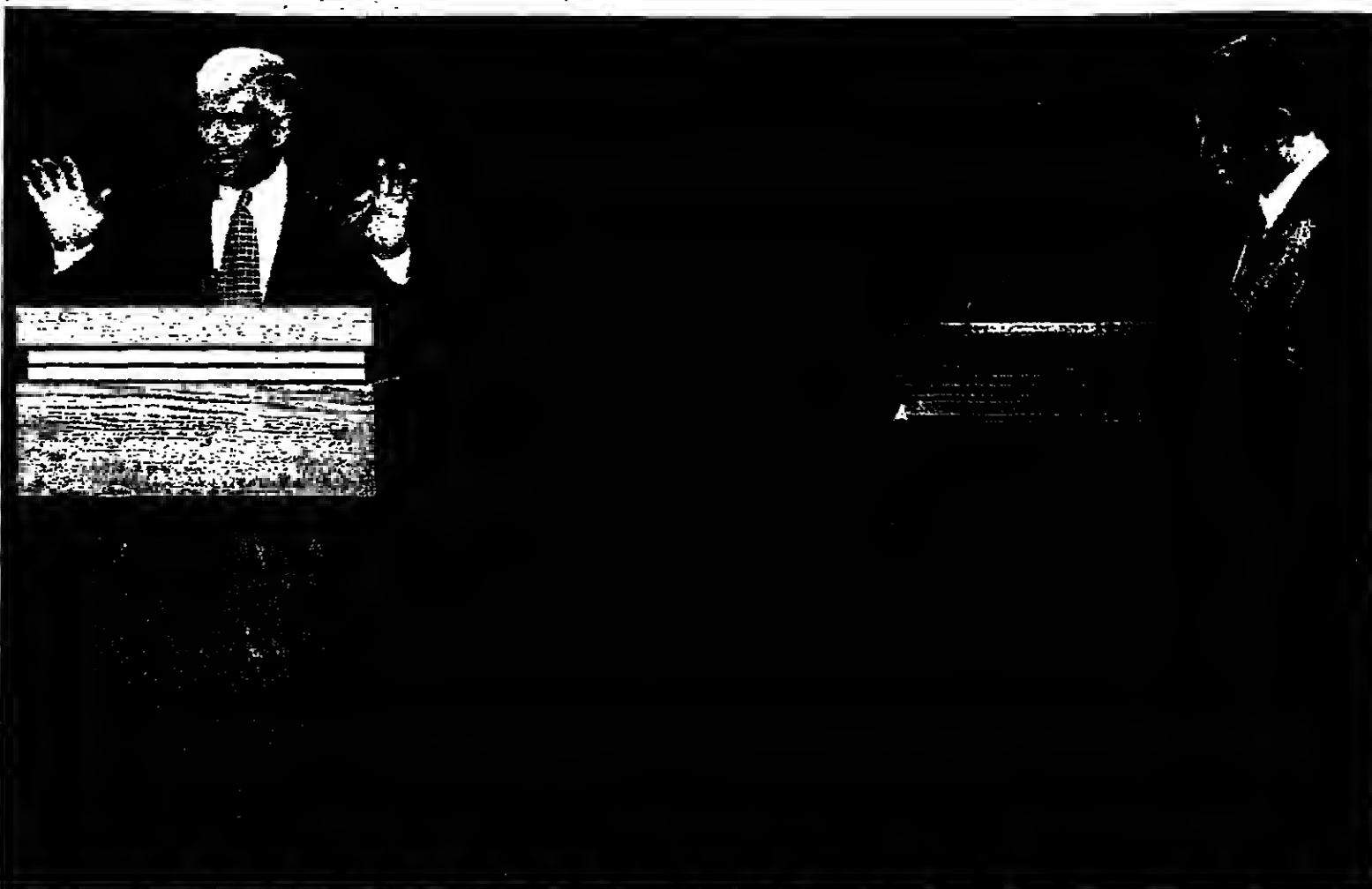
Mr Gore, however, repeatedly attacked the tax proposal, warning it "would blow a hole in the deficit". He also used the issue to spotlight the Democratic claim, which has apparently hit target especially with older voters, that it would mean slashing social-security payments, Medicare and Medicaid.

Mr Gore, who projects some self-deprecating humour in spite of his automaton image, also came closest to a knock-out all evening. When Mr Kemp suggested his tax-cut plan was not so much trickle-down economics as "Niagara Falls", the Vice-President fired back that Dole-Kemp would "put the American economy in a barrel and send it over the falls".

Mr Kemp appeared almost uncomfortable on foreign policy, visibly stumbling when asked to debate America's role in Haiti. Other clashes involved abortion, with Mr Kemp forcing his opponent to defend Mr Clinton's decision not to veto a ban on partial-birth abortion procedures, and on affirmative action for minorities.

On the latter issue, the Vice-President noted that Mr Kemp had abandoned his support for retaining some forms of affirmative action the day after he joined the Dole ticket.

Little in the debate is likely to have changed the direction of the 1996 campaign. As for 2000, a CNN/USA Today poll gave Mr Gore the edge over Mr Kemp as presidential material. Fifty-three per cent said they would like to see Mr Gore in the White House compared to 41 per cent for Mr Kemp. And their screen careers? "Even television was yawning," Monica Yant, television critic of the *St Petersburg Times*, wrote.



Talk show: The Republican Jack Kemp (left) makes a point during his encounter with Vice-President Al Gore Photograph: Win McNamee/Reuters

Men with an eye on the millennium

JACK KEMP Former professional football-player for the Buffalo Bills and member of Congress 1979-1989. Unsuccessful candidate for Republican presidential nomination in 1988, before serving as Housing Secretary under Bush. Declined to enter 1996 presidential race before surprisingly being picked as Dole's running mate on 10 August.

AL GORE Age 48. Harvard-educated, a member of Congress 1977-1985 before being elected US Senator from Tennessee in 1984. Like Kemp, also unsuccessfully sought presidential nomination in 1988. Set out 1992 race for personal reasons but selected by then Arkansas governor Bill Clinton as his running-mate in July 1992. A respected and influential Vice-President, and an early favourite for the Democratic nomination in 2000.

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LANDMINES MUST BE STOPPED

Patten extends olive branch to business leaders

STEPHEN VINES
Hong Kong

Bearing a rather small olive branch, Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday entered the lions' den in another attempt to persuade the colony's business leaders that they needed to speak up for the preservation of the territory's freedoms because, if they did not, "who do you think will?"

The former chairman of the Conservative Party finds himself condemned by Hong Kong businessmen as a "closet Socialist" bent on profligate social spending, and as a dangerous radical advocating reckless democratic reform.

For the better part of the past year Mr Patten has been trying to pacify business community leaders whom he indirectly accused of hypocrisy for refusing to assist in Hong Kong's democratic development while arranging bolt holes for themselves in democratic societies in the event that next year's transition to Chinese rule goes wrong.



Patten: Seeking support

In yesterday's speech to the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, Mr Patten flattered the business leaders by suggesting that in the past they had used their influence with the incoming Chinese government to assist in negotiations which helped preserve the colony's way of life.

However, he reminded them that more than half the companies listed on the local stock exchange had established domiciles offshore. He wondered aloud why they had done so if they were not concerned about the preservation of the rule of law at a time when it was in question, because of China's attitude to judicial matters.

Although the Governor is trying to keep the business community on side it is clear he regards this as a losing battle. Nearly all the colony's business leaders vocally oppose Mr Patten, following the lead of the Chinese government, which says his actions will be "condemned for a thousand generations". Mr Patten made a wry reference to this criticism which he seems to wear as a badge of pride.

The organisation he was addressing yesterday is solidly behind China's plans for the transfer of sovereignty and has complained to Mr Patten of bias against businessmen. One of its leaders, the legislator and tycoon, James Tien, described the Governor's speech as "positive". It failed, however, to dispel the misgivings he had about Mr Patten's insistence on telling China what it needs to do to preserve Hong Kong's freedoms. The business leaders believe the Governor is subtly provoking China.

international

Jerusalem divided: After the tunnel battles, Muslims have scored a victory

Passions inflamed by secret mosque

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

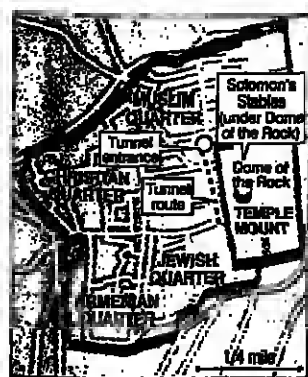
In the struggle for the holy sites of Jerusalem, Muslims have won a victory by constructing an underground mosque, capable of holding 7,000 worshippers, beneath the great masonry platform built by Herod on which stand Islam's third holiest shrines. The new mosque, built in semi-secret, is in an underground area known as Solomon's Stables, where the Crusaders once kept their war-horses.

The revelation that the mosque is to open in the next week is further fuelling animosity between Muslims and Jews in Jerusalem. "We had two attacks by Jewish extremists yesterday," said Adnan Hussein, the director of Islamic Waqf, which administers the mosques and shrines on the Haram Es-Sharif, "the Noble Sanctuary".

Solomon's Stables have nothing to do with Solomon and were not designed for the stabling of horses. The 12 rows of graceful columns are rather the underground support for the south end of Temple Mount, the 34-acre platform built by Herod as the site for the Second Temple.

In his office overlooking the Haram, Mr Hussein insists that the mosque had been used for Islamic devotions since Muslims captured the city. That is not strictly true but there is little Israel can do to reverse its conversion into a mosque since the Stables of Solomon are firmly under Islamic control. "If they try to stop us there will be a much greater popular reaction than over the tunnel," Mr Hussein says.

Many Muslims in Jerusalem say they see the new mosque as a quid pro quo, intended or not,



for the opening by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, of the tunnel beneath the Muslim quarter which led to the death of 75 Israelis and Palestinians. Waqf officials deny reports that they discussed a deal with the authorities whereby they would not object to the exit to the tunnel if they were allowed to open their mosque.

The work on Solomon's Stables was carried out by volunteers from the Israeli-Arab community. The rough floor has been refilled and lighting installed. Meir Ben-Dov, an archaeologist, says that the Islamic authorities, fearing Jewish encroachment on Temple Mount, are trying to Islamise various sites "to pre-empt Israeli claims that could be made in future. The Muslims are also worried that Jewish extremists would exploit the Stable area and use it to penetrate Temple Mount."

The fate of the Haram, which the Jews call Temple Mount, has always stirred the deepest political passions. King Abdullah of Jordan was shot dead in the al-Aqsa mosque there in 1951, for compromising with Israel. In 1967, after the Israeli capture of the city, the Muslim area in front of the Wailing Wall was bulldozed. In 1990 17 Palestinians, who stormed into the Haram because they believed it was about to come under attack by Jewish zealots intending to rebuild the Second Temple, were shot dead by Israeli troops.



Bruised by criticism of the opening of the tunnel, the Israeli government has agreed that the renovation and conversion of Solomon's Stables is legal. Seven members of the Temple Mount faithful movement, who want to take over the Haram and knock down the mosques, were arrested for trying to pray near al-Aqsa by way of protest.

The struggle for control and access to Holy Sites in Jerusalem and the West Bank has escalated as a result of the Oslo accords. As Israeli forces redeployed Jewish settlers, their religious supporters have insisted on heavy military protection for Jews wishing to go to Joseph's Well in Nablus, Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and the religious sites in Hebron. The purpose is as much to thwart the implementation of Oslo as to pursue their devotions by turning the shrines — such as Rachel's Tomb — into military outposts.

Enduring support: Yasser Arafat, Palestinian President, embracing an elderly adviser yesterday. Earlier, he told the Palestinian Legislative Council that talks with Israel had been unproductive. Photograph: Reuters

NZ no-hoper set to turn the poll tables

DAVID BARBER
Wellington

Four months ago, five leading frontbenchers of New Zealand's opposition Labour Party urged Helen Clark, their leader, to step aside in light of her dismal standing in opinion polls. She refused and is now poised to become the country's first female prime minister after tomorrow's election.

It would be one of the biggest fight-backs in New Zealand's political history for a woman renowned as one of Parliament's finest intellects but who lacks popular appeal. Labour, racked by dissent since David Lange resigned as prime minister in 1989, has languished in the polls all this election year.

Ms Clark, 46, with her humourless image, had struggled to get above the margin of error in opinion polls. But in the last few weeks of the campaign support has picked up dramatically and Ms Clark, sporting a glamorous new hairstyle and softer image, is tipped to lead a centre-left coalition government. A former lecturer, she has lightened her academic mien by attending rugby-league matches and race meetings.

She ousted the previous Labour leader, Mike Moore, after he lost the 1993 election, and has moved Labour to the centre and kept it together in a period of turmoil leading up to the first election conducted under proportional representation.

Ms Clark's main opponent, Jim Bolger, leader of the conservative National Party and Prime Minister for the past six years, has been called the Indian rubber man of New Zealand politics. Policy flip-flops have seen him embrace the Labour anti-nuclear policy he once condemned, and Nelson Mandela, whom former National governments dubbed a terrorist.

He has also showed steel in holding his government together after winning re-election with a single-seat majority in



Labour leader Helen Clark (above), could oust Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister



1993, losing a number of defecting MPs, running a minority administration and then cobbling together a coalition. Much of this time he did poorly in opinion polls, being seen as arrogant and pompous, while his party remained popular.

An MP for 24 years, the 61-year-old farmer, son of Irish immigrants and father of nine, has mellowed like the whisky he relaxes with late at night. But he remains convinced he is the only person who can lead the country in the new political environment. He is fighting for his political life, because his party is unforgiving of losers.

No politician since the late Robert Muldoon has polarised New Zealanders like Winston Peters, leader of New Zealand First and likely to become deputy prime minister, whichever

party forms the new government. Once tipped by Muldoon as the first Maori prime minister, he has attracted the highest crowds of any leader during the campaign. Opponents, including the Asian community, which sees his anti-immigration stance as racist, and big business, which fears his pledge to stem foreign investment and stamp out tax avoidance, detest him.

He has campaigned under the slogan "New Zealand for New Zealanders" and says his is the genuine people's party. He founded it in 1993 after Mr Bolger expelled him from the cabinet for defying government policy. His popularity was not greatly dented this year when a court found he had defamed a businessman whom he alleged had tried to bribe him. He will not say which party New Zealand First would join in a coalition but it is likely to be Labour, to keep out Mr Bolger and his former colleagues.

If big business fears Mr Peters, it is scared rigid by Jim Anderton, leader of the left-wing NZ Alliance, which wants to raise taxes, introduce a 10-per cent levy on imports and restore free healthcare and education for all. Mr Anderton, a former Labour backbencher who quit in 1989 in protest at its free-market policies, says the Alliance will not join a formal coalition with anybody. But with a possible 20-odd seats in the new parliament, its support on votes of confidence will be critical to keep a Labour-New Zealand First coalition in power.

Mr Anderton, the honest face of New Zealand politics, has performed miracles in keeping the Alliance, a coalition of five disparate parties, together since its formation in 1991. He has twice stepped down as leader after family crises but has bounced back. He says the Alliance will not water down its policies for a share of power, and is bent on building up the party to govern alone in 1999.

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Dissident trial heralds Chinese clampdown



Wang Dan: Facing seven years in jail for sedition

TERESA POOLE
Peking

China appears determined to put on trial one of the country's most outspoken young dissidents after telling his family to find a lawyer by this afternoon. Wang Dan, 26, who has been held without charge since May last year, may face up to seven years in jail for counter-revolutionary activities or sedition.

It is the second time this week that the government's hardline policy on dissent has been on show. On Wednesday, Liu Xiaobo was sentenced without trial to three years' re-education through labour. His crime was to petition last month for freedom of speech and the right to form political parties, and to criticise President Jiang Zemin for saying the army was under the control of the party rather than the state.

The latest moves against dissidents are in line with attempts by the party to tighten political control while moving ahead with economic reform. Mr Zemin's edict to "talk more about politics" was enshrined as official policy yesterday when the annual Communist Party plenum closed and published a document dwelling on "promoting socialist ethical and cultural progress".

This campaign, dubbed "spiritual civilisation" by Mr Jiang, covers everything from personal behaviour to a clampdown on Western media on the Internet.

Mr Wang was one of the student leaders of the 1989 pro-democracy rallies in Tiananmen Square, and after the 4 June bloody crackdown he spent more than three years in prison. After his release, Mr Wang stayed in China and continued publicly to criticise the govern-



Sign of the times: A cyclist ignores a government poster urging moral regeneration in Hualou yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

Jiang rallies support with call for ideological control

Skyscrapers have mushroomed, Mao suits have given way to mobile phones, and private businessmen are making small fortunes. But yesterday, the Chinese Communist Party demonstrated how after 18 years of economic reform, official political rhetoric is still stuck in the old era, writes Teresa Poole.

At the end of the annual gathering of the central committee, the most important political meeting of the year, China's leaders sidestepped focused on "promoting ethical and cultural progress", a byword for tightening ideological control.

The four-day annual party plenum ended last night with a call for more emphasis on "ideological education" and the "national spirit of self-reliance". The plenum document described how a "marked improvement of citizens' quality should be realized", through everything from "penetrating and sustained" education in patriotism to "excellent literary works".

Behind the call for "lofty ideals" is, of course, a more serious game. This is the last plenum before next autumn's full party congress at which top level jobs will be shuffled. So from now on, behind the scenes, President Jiang Zemin is doing everything he can to bolster his position as the so-called "core" of the party. Whether or not the ailing 92-year-old Deng Xiaoping is around for next year's congress, Mr Jiang does not want to risk alienating any faction of the party.

In China there is no safer political manifesto than a call for Socialist values. The plenum document expanded on Mr Jiang's repeated calls this year for a "spiritual civilisation", which has encompassed everything from the need for patriotism in dealing with the rising tide of crime, prostitution, drugs, corruption. Such social ills are uniformly blamed on the influence of Western mores. The plenum document also indicated a further crackdown on control of the mass media, with "politically smudged" professionals to be trained.

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Devastation and despair along the Drina

BACK TO BOSNIA

Robert Fisk reports on a valley in the shadow of death in his series from the former Yugoslavia a year after the ceasefire

Visegrad, Serb-controlled eastern Bosnia — On the entrance to the tunnel, the writing was on the wall. "The only good halija is a dead one," the graffiti said. "Halija" is an old word for a Turk and now — as vicious a racist word as "nigger" — has come to mean "Muslim". And here we were, scarcely five miles from the great bridge over the Drina, the stone masterpiece of 10 arches with which the Turks blessed eastern Bosnia at the height of their 16th-century power. Yet on the next tunnel through the rock wall of the valley, the message was even clearer. "Arkan," it said, referring to the nastiest of Serbian Bosnia's ethnic cleansers, "thank you."

We only had to look around us, as we drove down the valley of the Drina, to know what the Serbs had to thank Arkan for. Village after village — dozens of them, some along the narrow road beside the water, others oozing high up along the mountain tree-line — lay in ruins, more than 100 miles of them, their houses torched, their mosques pulverised, the minarets settled into the rubble, a muezzin's rusting loudspeaker amid the dust.

Survivors have told the world of the massacres around Prijedor, in northern Bosnia, in 1992; but there were few witnesses to the carnage along the upper Drina, the traditional home of the Muslims of eastern Bosnia. The drive down to Visegrad shows why.

Alija Izetbegovic says that his frontier will extend to beyond the Drina, that the people of the great ravines and valleys will return to the homes from which

they were so savagely "cleansed" in 1992. But the newly elected Bosnian President — always supposing his election was fair — has not seen the wilderness created along the banks of the broad, softly flowing river, the utter finality with which the Serbs have scorched the earth.

Into burned house after house I clambered, only to find a few picture frames, empty bottles of Slivovic — from which came the "cleansers" courage — carbonised rafters and the husks of washing machines and fridges and rotting carpets. From Visegrad south to Medjeda and Ustipirca, and north to Zvornik, it is the valley of the shadow of death. Not a soul stirs in the forests. There are no fish-

ermen, no farm animals, no roadside shops; only ruins and overgrown fields and no doubt, to be undiscovered for ever, the mass graves

got oozing from this war." The conviction that the war was lost is widespread among the Serbs down here, an odd assessment of a conflict in which their militias wiped out the homes of generations of Muslims. The ancient bridge has been preserved intact, although the Arabic quotations from the Koran carved on to the centre have been defaced with the spray-painted

names of Serbs.

The construction remains as powerful and as frightening in its sheer symmetry as it did in 1595, Andric's ferocious epic *Bridge over the Drina*. When I walked across the old stone road, an off-duty soldier was courting his lady at the spot where Radovan, Andric's Serbian saboteur, was slowly un-

happen to those who opposed Ottoman rule.

The Drina has had the same mesmeric effect on the I-For troops, the Italian Bersaglieri with their black-feathered helmets who eat out at the only oew building, oorth of Visegrad for 100 miles, a Serb coffee-shop with "Steak — Serbian style" at the top of the menu. Beside a burned home, I found a young Italian "t-



Witness to a lost society: The bridge, a monument to Ottoman power, remains but the Muslim community has gone. Everywhere mosques, such as the one above, are destroyed

Photographs: Robert Fisk

tenant taking snapshots of the river, focusing on the mist covered hills to the south-east, carefully moving his camera into the one angle that would exclude those unsightly, haunted ruins amid the trees. Back to Venice or Rome or Naples, he would take his pictures of a river and an unspoiled autumnal wood of green, gold and brown leaves.

West of Zvornik, the Muslims of Bosnia have spoiled the effect. At least a hundred have moved into the confrontation lines, back to the old Muslim village of Jusice, armed in case the Serbs try to stop them, many of them — if the Serbs are to be believed — Bosnian soldiers anxious to push eastwards, village by village, in the hope that I-For will give way to them as easily as Unprofor once gave way to the Serbs.

Serbian police have acted with restraint — even when I-For could retrieve from the Muslim "villagers" a mere 10 guns by way of a token of good behaviour. Among the US and Italian soldiers, there are rumours that

I-For has privately offered the Muslims of Jusice money to leave the village temporarily — until, that is, they have filled in the appropriate forms for their return. To Zvornik, the International Police Task Force (IPTF) — led by an unsociable American cop — is trying to assuage the local Serbs.

If only those pesky Muslims would stay behind the lines, it seems, life would be a lot easier for the IPTF.

But they may not. Foreigners have a habit of being disliked and then disobeyed in Bosnia, as a slightly drunken Serb refugee reminded me when I gave him a lift back to Glavice from the funeral of his wife's uncle. "It's a bad thing when a house is not looked after," he said. "When the landlord's away, the world walks through your home."

Tomorrow Robert Fisk reports from Serb-controlled northern Bosnia, on a new, post-Dayton kind of ethnic cleansing and the despair and bitterness that it engenders.

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Apartheid trial acquittals give Malan hope

MARY BRAID
Johannesburg

The historic, seven-mouth trial of General Magnus Malan, former defence minister, and four other apartheid-era generals on murder and conspiracy charges appeared to be unravelling yesterday when six of their co-accused walked free from a Durban court.

There was wild clapping and jubilant shouts when the six men, supporters of the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, were cleared of involvement in the 1987 KwaMakhutha massacre of 13 people in a village south of Durban. Victor Ntuli, an ANC activist, was the intended target of the attack. He was out when the gunmen came calling. Those who died were holding a prayer meeting in his home.

The case goes to the heart of the former South African government's cynical inflaming of the conflict between the IFP and the ANC through secret support and training for Inkatha.

KwaZulu-Natal Attorney General, Tim McNally, has tried to prove the massacre was the result of a South African Defence Force project to provide Inkatha with hit-squads and that General Malan was responsible for it.

But Judge Jan Hugo was

scathing of the state's case against the six. It now seems unlikely that General Malan and the generals, the most senior members of the former National Party government and armed forces to face criminal charges, will not also be released today.

Yesterday, Judge Hugo said the three witnesses — including Captain Johan Opperman, who claims to have led the unit responsible for the massacre and turned state witness to avoid prosecution — upon which the prosecution rested were unreliable. He said the state failed to prove that the accused were responsible for the murders.

He also criticised Mr McNally for failing to call witnesses who might have supported the evidence of other state witnesses. IFP leader, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, has haunted the case; his name has been mentioned countless times in evidence. There has been widespread criticism that McNally's failure to call him is political.

The collapse of the case will add to the frustration of those who believe neither the courts nor the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, charged with establishing the truth about the past and encouraging national healing, is exposing or punishing the guilty men; those who ran the old regime.

Q:
A:

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Nato expansion row: Potential members not ruled out despite objections from Russia and the US

Baltic states given a little hope

TONY BARBER
Copenhagen

The Nato Secretary-General, Javier Solana, yesterday assured Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that the alliance had not ruled them out as potential members, despite vehement Russian objections and doubts in some Western capitals over the wisdom of bringing them in.

"I want to say very clearly now that no country is ruled out and no country is ruled in. We will try to take a decision at the right moment, probably not before the middle of 1997," Mr Solana said in the north Danish port of Frederikshavn.

The Baltic states, anxious for Western security guarantees

to consolidate their newly won independence, were dismayed last month when the US Defense Secretary, William Perry, said they were not ready to join Nato. He said a key condition was that each country could come to the defence of its allies if attacked, and they had not acquired that capability.

Although stating what most Nato governments regard as obvious, he thought it advisable to play down his remarks later in a letter to the Baltic defence ministers. The letter, released on Wednesday, said: "I understand that I said, and I believe, that the Baltics are fully eligible for Nato membership and I look forward to the day when each country is a member."

The issue arouses strong

emotions in the Nordic countries, both in Denmark and Norway, which are in Nato, and in neutral Finland and Sweden. Denmark's Defence Minister, Hans Haackrup, said in an interview this week: "The question of taking in new members is, to me, basically a moral question."

"If new democracies emerge in Central and Eastern Europe, I have a moral problem denying them the same security guarantees that we Danes had in the Cold War. But this guarantee is not to be directed against another country, only against an aggressor."

Nato is expected to hold a summit in the middle of next year at which formal invitations to join will be extended to sev-

eral Central European countries. To balance this, Nato hopes for an agreement with Russia making it a close partner of the West and removing suspicion about the alliance's enlargement.

But there is much uncertainty in Nato about Russia's precise attitude to enlargement. On Monday, when Alexander Lebed, President Boris Yeltsin's security supremo, visited Nato's Brussels headquarters, he said Russia would not react hysterically to expansion. But he used fairly hysterical language yesterday at a scientific conference in Russia. "Will Nato's eastward expansion ... towards the Baltic republics boost Russia's security? Nobody can guarantee that it won't occur to some-

one at some time to do to us what was recently done to Iraq," he said.

The first phase of Nato enlargement is expected to include the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, the aim being to make them full members by April 1999, the 50th anniversary of Nato's formation.

Yet the US and other big alliance members such as Germany are believed to have reservations about whether it should admit the Baltics. The prospect of extending the US nuclear umbrella over countries that border Russia and have disaffected ethnic Russian minorities is not one that appeals to many US policy-makers.

Danish officials say that if the Baltic states are excluded from

the first wave of enlargement, they should be offered closer ties with Nato through the alliance's Partnership for Peace programme. The Danish defence ministry points out that Baltic troops already serve with Danish forces in Nato's peace-keeping mission in Bosnia.

For the Baltic states, however, all the Partnership for Peace projects in the world pale into insignificance compared with the prize of obtaining a rock-solid security guarantee from Nato. The presidents of the Baltic states pledged last month that their countries would make the sacrifices needed to upgrade their armed forces, bring them into line with Nato standards and improve their ability to defend themselves and others.

significant shorts

Taliban hard hit as soldiers fight back

Afghanistan's purist Islamic Taliban militia appeared in deep trouble yesterday as it suffered further losses in the Salang Pass, north of Kabul, and prepared defences south of the front line.

Travellers from Jalal-Abad, at the entrance to the pass through the Hindu Kush, where forces of the ousted Rabbani government were battling the Taliban hard, said the fighting was close to the front line. The Taliban rejected calls by a UN special envoy for a ceasefire, saying they would not lay down their weapons until all Afghans were disarmed. *Reuters - Charikar*

Foreign troops key to Bosnia reconstruction

International Bosnia peace co-ordinator Carl Bildt said foreign contingents of troops would have to remain in Bosnia in 1997 and 1998 for the country to stand any chance of recovering from the recent war. "The mission of this military presence would primarily be deterrent, to provide reassurance ... thus providing the conditions necessary for political reconciliation, re-integration and reconstruction," he said in a speech. *Reuters - London*

Lebed's Nato broadside

The Russian security tsar, Alexander Lebed, fired a broadside against Nato's eastward expansion plans, a day after ending a visit to the alliance's headquarters which won praise from its leaders.

Izvestia quoted him as telling a conference: "Will Nato's expansion ... boost Russia's security? Nobody can guarantee that it won't occur to someone ... to do to us what was recently done to Iraq." Mr Lebed, 46, was referring to US missile attacks on Iraqi targets last month. *Reuters - Moscow*

Tudjman libel verdict appeal

Croatia's state prosecutor has appealed against the acquittal of two independent journalists who had been charged with defaming President Franjo Tudjman, likening him to the late Spanish dictator, Francisco Franco. The Zagreb Municipal Court last month found Viktor Ivanic and Marinko Culic, editor and writer respectively of the satirical weekly *Feral Tribune*, not guilty, but the prosecutor has called for an annulment of the verdict, citing errors in the court's proceedings. *Reuters - Zagreb*

Fifty die in Zaire raids

Marauders swept through a Swedish missionary hospital in Zaire and killed nearly 40 people, most of them patients who were shot or stabbed as they lay in their sickbeds, mission officials said. Twelve other people were killed in an attack on a missionary station nearby. The attacks took place around Lemera, near the borders with Rwanda and Burundi and apparently were connected to the violence between the Tutsi and Hutu ethnic groups that plagues the region. *AP - Stockholm*

The Pope in 'great shape'

The Pope was in "really great shape" two days after surgery to remove his appendix, officials said, adding that the pontiff planned to celebrate a public Mass at the Vatican before the end of the month. *Reuters - Rome*

Python kills young owner

A young man preparing to feed a live chicken to his pet python was killed after the 13ft snake coiled around him. Grant Williams, 19, died in hospital an hour after being found in his Bronx apartment. *AP - New York*

ANC gets members in line on abortion

JULIETTE SAUNDERS
Reuter

Cape Town — The ruling African National Congress (ANC) ordered its parliamentarians yesterday to vote in favour of changing South Africa's abortion laws from among the world's strictest to among the most liberal.

All opposition parties in parliament have decided to allow their MPs to vote on the abortion Bill according to conscience and religious beliefs, but the majority ANC needs a party vote to guarantee adoption of the pro-choice legislation.

"We are calling on all ANC MPs to come to the vote, and the whips (in parliament) will be on their backs to check that — not only that they are there, but that they vote positively," said Arnold Stofie, ANC chief whip in the National Assembly.

The vote over abortion on demand is the toughest moral challenge yet for the ANC.

Its Christian and Muslim members of parliament have privately voiced concern at the party's approach, and intimidated they would find excuses to be absent on the day of the vote, scheduled for 29 October in the National Assembly.

It goes to the Senate on 5 November, and becomes law if both houses deliver a simple majority.

Addressing a news conference after an ANC caucus meeting in parliament, Mr Stofie said ANC leaders were aware of the concerns stemming from members who were religious, but hoped to reassure them through theological discussion.

Mr Stofie, who is an ordained Presbyterian minister, said no MPs had yet told the party that they had "a violent problem which is mitigating against this vote".

The ANC, which draws its support from both the political left and moderates in rural districts, pledged before its 1994 election as the majority partner in a government of national unity it would adopt a pro-choice stance on abortion.

The Health Minister, Nkosazana Zuma, the first black person to hold the post, has asked parliament to allow women to terminate their pregnancies up to 12 weeks in their choice, and for a further eight weeks allow abortion under strict conditions.

At present, only about 1,000 women a year qualify for legal abortions allowed under special circumstances like incest, rape or danger to the mother's life. However, nearly 50,000 women report to hospitals each year after botched illegal abortions.



Rabbit sense: Greenpeace activists at the headquarters of the chemicals group Unilever in Hamburg, Germany, protesting against the planned use of genetically modified soya in foods because they say health and environmental risks cannot be excluded. Photograph: Reuters

Juppé knocked back on electoral reform

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

Failure of voting system changes add to woes of falling popularity



Juppé: Popularity falling

Proposals by the French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, for changing the voting system before parliamentary elections next year have been rejected by the executive of his own Gaullist party, in what amounts to a swinging personal and political defeat for the already beleaguered Prime Minister.

The proposals, floated last month, included the reintroduction of an element of proportional representation in larger, mostly urban, constituencies.

The change was seen as having two main aims: to limit the likely damage to the Gaullist's representation in parliament and to give smaller parties the chance of winning a few — but not too many — seats. It was fiercely criticised from all sides.

Some saw it as a step to the extreme right National Front, others as sanctioning a dual system in which urban votes would count more than rural votes. Yet others thought changing the system so soon before the elections smacked of manipulation.

On Wednesday night, the executive of the Gaullist (RPR) party rejected the proposals unanimously, and agreed there should be no change in the first-past-the-post system before the 1997 elections. The decision clearly exposed Mr Juppé's difficulties in stamping his authority on the party and added more uncertainty to his position as Prime Minister.

This was the latest in a series of setbacks for Mr Juppé with his party. Two weeks ago, at the annual get-together of Gaullist MPs at Le Havre, Mr Chirac had to intervene, via a senior party member, to persuade the rank and file to give Mr Juppé their support.

And in his keynote speech, Mr Juppé had to appeal to MPs, almost pathetically, to support his government's reform programme "with heart and soul, not just for fear's sake".

Outside the party, Mr Juppé's position is no better and his popularity in opinion polls continues to fall. The latest poll, published yesterday by *L'Express* magazine, showed his approval

rating had fallen seven points since June and, at 34 per cent, was the lowest it had been since he became Prime Minister 16 months ago.

The worst news for Mr Juppé was that the greatest loss of confidence was among stalwarts of the right, where his popularity had dropped by 20 points, from 66 per cent to 46 per cent in three months. Other polls show his popularity running below 30 per cent.

Commentators blame this performance more on Mr Juppé's image as the epitome of France's political elite — privileged and remote — than on the unpopularity of government austerity measures.

It is in an apparent attempt to tackle what is seen as a growing gap between this elite and the voters that Mr Juppé has sent out a questionnaire to leaders of all the main political groupings in parliament soliciting their views on what should be done to "modernise political life".

The questions, which cover the desirability of PR, the tradition of holding several elected posts concurrently, the poor representation of women (France has the second lowest number of female MPs in Europe after Greece), a possible upper age-limit for MPs, and the often dubious financing of political activities, offer a catalogue of much that is wrong with the French political system.

The problem is that only those with a stake in the system are being consulted, and that Mr Juppé not only holds a cluster of electoral mandates, but slashed the number of women in his Cabinet after only five months. With such a lead from the top, the results of the survey may only strengthen the voters' cynicism.

What the papers say



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Alan Rusbridger, editor of *The Guardian*

concurred, adding: "Brilliant concept. Brilliantly executed."

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Polly Toynbee on the Tory party conference in Bournemouth.

Page 18.

1. *Chlorophyll *a** and *Chlorophyll *b** were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1601 UV-Visible Spectrophotometer.

If the press is muzzled, it can only blame itself

Can a free press be a menace? Once, even to raise the question was a kind of political blasphemy. Most people trusted their newspapers and regarded their independence – quite rightly – as one of the essentials of democracy. Journalists were reasonably well regarded. The hard left despised the "bourgeois press", and elevated people sniffed at the chirping and ferocious patriotism of the cheaper papers. But, by and large, the British were mildly proud of the Fourth Estate, with its grumpy Fleet Street glamour, sternly schooled reporters and strange, flashy owners. It came below Parliament, the Palace and the police as a great British institution. But it was one.

Long ago, that affair went wrong. Many papers, once Rupert Murdoch arrived, became out so much free as freely scurrilous. Immunity and smirking was replaced by full-frontal exposure. In the tabloids, politics, public issues, foreign affairs and the arts were all pushed aside by sex, sex and (for variety) sex. Sport remained important, and so did blaring, propagandistic politics when it was time once again for a vote. But, essentially, the reporting of public affairs was slowly abandoned for a lip-licking obsession with public affairs. This affected everything. Where once the Establishment could conduct bed-hopping without a word ever appearing, we are now in an age when almost anyone remotely newsworthy is regarded as fair

game. You only have to be the relative of someone who once appeared on television many years ago to be press-ganged to serve in the National Television. Minor royals, people of no significance, are pursued by grown-up men and women who must feel a little embarrassed. Politicians are known as often by their amours as their ideas. The power of publicity has led some papers to behave like jeering bullies.

What does the public think? People seem to have a painfully ambiguous attitude to newspapers, buying them still in huge numbers but also, often enough, despising them. In surveys of which professions are the most and the least respected, journalists are down in the gutter alongside their prey, the politicians, as the lowest of the low. It is as if tabloid papers, in spirit as well as in size, are mirroring the worst in their readers, who stare back in repelled fascination.

That is the proper background against which to consider Lord Wakeham's latest warning to newspaper editors. Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, a self-regulatory body, was outraged by untrue stories about a prince. He was also referring, it seems, to the faked "Princess Diana in sex romps" video. Though it turned out to be posed by actors (and actresses, of course) it was the readiness of *The Sun* to use what it believed was genuine, snatched peeping-Tom material that worried him. Lord Wakeham, and every



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one else, has long passed the stage of naïveté when newspaper defences along the lines of "breach of security – who's to blame?" will wash.

Lord Wakeham's argument is, in essence, simple. The PCC can only investigate complaints. Often, when someone's privacy is invaded or they are harassed, they do not complain, for fear of producing more publicity and hurt, perhaps to children or relatives. But, he said, "it might lead some newspapers to believe that, simply because one of those involved in a story fails to complain, they have carte blanche to invade their privacy without any defence of

public interest." This would be wrong, and could lead to statutory controls.

But the PCC's warning to the press may already be too late. Senior Labour Party people are privately committed to a new privacy law, and the mood is hardening among Conservatives too. The politicians will not move before the general election because they want the editors' support. But once the campaign is over, the betting must be that there will be a new drive to stop journalists invading the privacy of their targets.

What should we make of that? British newspapers are already subject to the sternest of libel laws. They operate in a

country where official secrecy remains excessive. We must remember that there are a large number of people who either wallow in publicity and manipulate it – and who therefore must take the consequences if things go wrong – or who actively like to be in the papers, selling their story. Finally, of course, we do not want a cowed press, fearful of investigating legitimate targets.

But virtuous probing is likelier to involve following financial and administrative trails than trails of discarded clothing. *The Guardian's* pursuit of Neil Hamilton, after a tip-off from Mohamed al-Fayed, was a recent example of the sort of journalism that is so valuable and important it must be protected from new legislation. So what are the key questions for any MP wanting to rein in attack journalism aimed at soft targets for public titillation? There are two. Can you frame legislation that toughens up the law on intrusion where the story is about sex (except where hypocrisy is involved) while leaving stories about money or dishonesty alone? And can you ensure a public interest defence strong enough to stop your proposed law protecting rich people from legitimate investigation?

We would prefer self-regulation. Who wouldn't? At *The Independent*, we have made mistakes of judgement, but we try to adhere to the spirit of the code reproduced on today's front page. In a fiercely competitive market, though, where peo-

ple will buy, salivate and tut-tut at the same time, there seems too much temptation for too many papers. Therefore, it seems unlikely that self-regulation will survive. There will be a ferocious campaign against new laws by our colleagues and competitors. But if such laws are imposed upon us, the blame will rest squarely on the Street of Shame.

A taste for the colour purple

Now he's off to Dior. To make clothes we'll adore. John Galliano had better be bold. For if he's to succeed. He must gain a great lead. Among women who are now growing old.

The answer is clear. From a lovely old dear. Whose poem we've voted the best. Jenny Joseph's advice. Which should make him think twice. Is to give *haute couture* a rest.

Drop those oat pencil skirts. Bring in "terrible shirts". And forget all those beautiful people. We want red hats that clash. And shoes bright and brash. But most of all, John, we want purple.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crazy quota system fails farmers

Sir: In response to Tim Edwards (letter, 9 October), proper reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is essential before things can improve.

Initial indications on the reform of the milk regime show that little is likely to change in this crazy system of quotas and fixed prices, and there is real lack of political will within the EU Council of Ministers (of which the British government is a member) to change the system.

It is typical of the CAP that after 30 years in operation – with a current budget of over £40bn annually – farmers such as Mr Edwards are still writing letters like this. I am truly in sympathy with him, but I seriously doubt whether, BSE compensation aside, there is any quick-fix solution.

A mismanaged system has evolved which is neither in the interests of the consumer, the taxpayer, nor even the farmers it was designed to protect.

TERRY WYNN MEP
(Merseyside East and Wigan, Lab)
Chair, European Parliament Land Use and Food Policy Intergroup Brussels

Sir: How come, of the 25p per litre we provide to farmers for producing milk, nearly half (12p) is spent simply obtaining a piece of paper – the quota – which in itself produces nothing? Why should we be providing a substantial income (12p times 700,000 litres or £84,000) to the lucky owners of the quota that Tim Edwards leases? I strongly suspect that these owners would not normally qualify for social security or means-tested assistance.

No doubt some limited compensation might be justified for getting rid of this artificial right to collect rent or tribute, but we should be seeking to correct this nonsense as soon as possible.

DAVID HARVEY
Tyne-mouth, Tyne & Wear

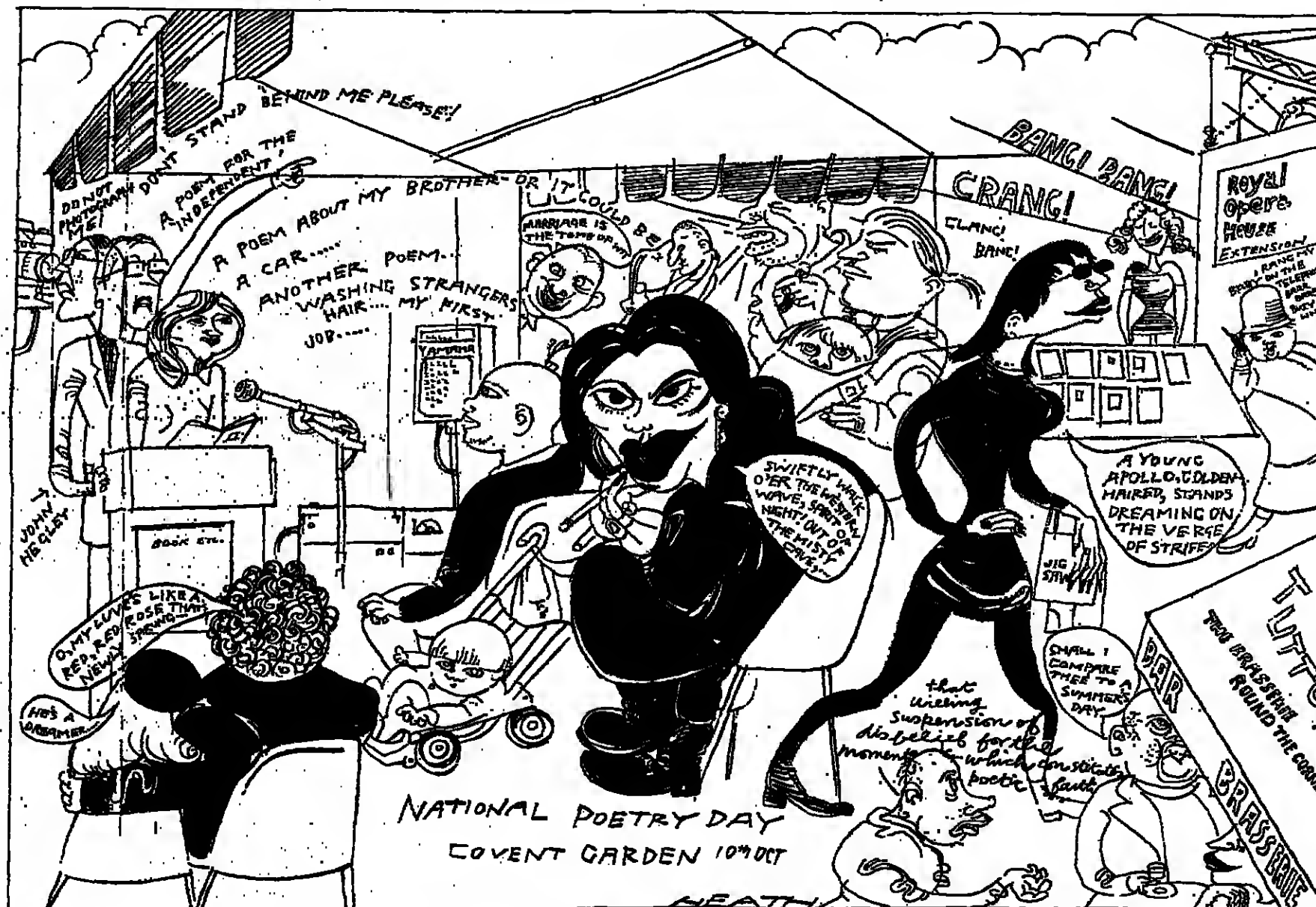
Sir: Dairy farmer Tim Edwards appeals to readers for help. I suggest he looks first at the world dairy market and second at his own circumstances.

The price Tim is being paid for his milk (about 24p per litre) is considerably greater than that paid to US farmers (19p/l) or New Zealand (13p/l). Tim's high price is sustained through the quota system. He complains about its effect on his business, yet if quotas were removed the fall in the price of milk would put very many dairy farmers (and quite possibly their bankers) under great pressure.

Heavy borrowings in farming are commonplace. Banks, finance companies, agricultural advisers and the farming media need farmers to borrow and expand. Tim should look at US farms, where capital is less easily available. They wouldn't dream of spending the money farmers do in this country.

If he owns only 37,000 litres of milk quota and leases 650,000, Tim's on a hiding to nothing. He needs to talk with his landlord, get out of milk – which will release the capital tied up in his cows – equip himself with some cheap machinery and crop the farm.

The best speaker at this year's Oxford Farming Conference said he would love to farm corn and beans like his established neighbours, but he was not born with a silver spoon and didn't have the resources. So he developed an asparagus business, which he could



Michael Heath's Britain: A day of culture

develop using the land and capital he had. Tim should think on the same lines.

MIKE DONOVAN
Editor, Practical Farm Ideas
Whitland, Carmarthenshire

Sir: I can help Tim Edwards, who like many other dairy farmers is suffering from the Government's unscientific and therefore futile, destructive and even immoral BSE culling policy.

He and his farming colleagues must persuade the Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) to collaborate with Dr Nisarg of Newcastle, the only person to have devised a simple urine test to reveal the early stages of BSE. His test works on sheep with scrapie and it was positive in eight out of eight humans who subsequently died of proved CJD. He has been offering to help MAFF with tests for BSE since 1988. But our chief vet and his staff have persistently refused his offers.

Identifying the infected animals would enable the slaughter to be restricted to them and BSE would vanish. Farmers would then stop committing suicide, our economy would be saved the billions of pounds it is set to lose and the BSE saga would be history.

Dr H C GRANT
London NW3

Great day

Sir: Do you think the insatiable appetite for "Days" ("That was the week, that was", 8 October) would be satiated by a National "Mind Your Own Bleeding Business" Day? CHARLES BOWYER
Sevenoaks, Kent

Palestinians shun Nazi gold

Sir: The best and only use that can be properly made of the money stolen by the Nazis from the Jews would be to return it to its rightful owners. This may be almost impossible after fifty years of shameful deception by the authorities, but let us not compound these misdemeanours by adding insult to the injury already inflicted on the Jews.

As for compensating the Palestinians for Jewish settlements in Palestine, let it not be forgotten that it was in the aftermath of the Holocaust that more than half a million Jews were expelled from Arab countries and rendered homeless. At least the Israeli authorities have due legal process and one can hope that ultimately the Palestinians will come to an accommodation with their half-brothers, all of us being the sons of Abraham. Thank you very much, Professor Davis (letter, 8 October) but the Palestinians would not touch a single coin of that tainted Nazi gold, which is not ours either by right or by default.

It is time the Europeans acted with honour towards the victims of their colonial adventures, ceased this squalid argument over filthy lucre, and stopped patronising the people of the Middle East, whether Arabs or Jews. Perhaps that will only be possible when the Europeans

themselves have come to terms with their crime of depriving the world of something infinitely more valuable than gold: the millions of human beings who were so cruelly extinguished from their midst. Who will ever be able to compensate Europe for this self-inflicted loss? DR FIRAZ AL AHMAR
London W3

Medical schools under threat

Sir: Your article "Medical schools hit by drain of doctors to NHS" (3 October) aptly points out the crisis facing our medical schools in relation to senior appointments in clinical academic departments. I believe it is wrong to suggest that this is mainly due to inadequate remuneration.

Senior clinical academics, particularly those appointed to chairs, are still appointed on a salary scale identical to that of NHS consultants and by and large parity is retained following appointment. There is major concern that this parity is under threat.

The number of professorial posts has increased without a concomitant increase in training of junior academics. Clinical chairs have been created in new departments and in institutions where they did not previously exist. This move has largely been driven by the need to boost research ratings, but has occurred in the face

of decreased availability of research funds.

Because of the latter, senior academic posts are less attractive and less secure. Clinical lecturer posts in medical schools have all but disappeared in favour of more senior appointments. Adoption of the new Calman training grades for doctors is shortening clinical training, and diminishing the opportunity to develop research and teaching interests. The career path to an NHS consultant post is better defined and more easily followed than that to a senior academic post.

The current need is not only to secure pay and conditions for medical academics, but also to implement suitable training schemes which allow junior doctors to develop research and teaching skills. The close relationship between academic and clinical medicine has traditionally been one of the great strengths of our system. Without an urgent investment in junior academic posts this cross-fertilisation, and the future of our medical schools, is under threat.

Professor R LEE KENNEDY
Durham

Hubbard and Howard

Sir: I read with interest Ian Burrell's account of the rehabilitation initiative based on *The Way to Happiness*. I too

better living. I fully endorse all that Nico van den Berg is quoted as saying, but I am not "lobbying Michael Howard", the Home Secretary. As far as I can tell he has no interest in the rehabilitation of criminals, preferring instead to cur favour with the faithful at the Tory party conference by promising to build more prisons, particularly for young offenders.

Every member of the House of Lords receives a writ of Summons from the Queen to assist her in defending the realm against "imminent perils". We are faced with increasing levels of crime and progressive social decay, which many people do feel is a threat to the stability of the nation. If any member of the House of Lords knows of an effective remedy yet fails to promote it, he or she would be failing to comply with that writ.

Lord McNAIR
House of Lords
London SW1

Ancient amber

Sir: The discovery of early Cretaceous (125 million years old) amber (Significant Shorts, 8 October) is by no means unique. In fact, amber of the same age was described from the Isle of Wight three years ago. However, these are not the oldest. Nuggets of even older fossilised tree resins have been found in the Triassic rocks of Arizona and also in the Appalachians, USA, at least 220 and 300 million years old respectively.

Dr CHRIS NICHOLAS
Dr MARK RUDNICKI
Department of Earth Sciences
University of Cambridge

It isn't Latin the British lack

Sir: "Latin is a dead language, and we have enough trouble persuading children to speak English" (leading article, 8 October). Quite right, but should not British people be looking beyond the White Cliffs of Dover and realise that "out there" the vast majority of people do not have English as their mother tongue?

For hundreds of millions of people, English is, admittedly, a lingua franca to facilitate international communication. But other languages exist, and I have a shrewd suspicion that the vast majority of British business people, journalists and even diplomats are quite incapable of having a sophisticated conversation in any foreign language, living or dead. Would it not be courteous for Britons occasionally to learn a foreign language or two properly?

Why not teach seven-year-olds the rudiments of a living language, such as German or French, if we are so mad keen on giving them insights into declensions, conjugations and other grammatical unpleasantnesses? We do, after all, belong to the European Union, not the Roman Empire.

ERIC DICKENS
Blaricum, Netherlands

When we burst upon the world

Sir: May I offer you the heartiest congratulations for 10 years of the best newspaper coverage possible?

Ten years ago this week I took my then girlfriend, Susan, on holiday to Majorca to propose marriage. Like most Brits abroad, I still seek news from home. I therefore sought out the nearest newspaper vendor and was surprised to see *The Independent*. At home, fate had conspired to hide me from the pre-launch media barrage.

I therefore assumed that *The Independent* was printed for the Spanish/Balearic expatriate community. After a week of reading I was a convert and enthused wildly on my return, advising friends to try *The Independent* next time they were in Spain.

It was not until a week or so later that I spotted the paper on sale in the local newsagent and the penny dropped. All the very best for the next 10 years.

MILES W BAIGENT
Glasgow

Conkering Korea

Sir: Miles Kingston is not, as claimed (8 October), a hapless victim of evolution, so much as a hapless victim of nostalgia, unbelievably lacking in the entrepreneurial vision needed to put the game back into Great Britain.

Maybe they play the game yet in Wiltshire, but in London, where I work, the kids rush home to the Internet while worlds of conkers leafless lie. Thus I, last Tuesday, crossing the park to join some Korean friends for dinner, came across an unplundered carpet of the things and gathered them up and stuffed my pockets. To my delight – and a little to my hosts' amazement – the three children of the house learnt the game in no time and soon had a tournament going like the young Asian tigers they are.

My first cratellod is already on its way to Seoul. DAVID WALLACE
Hove, East Sussex

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essay

You can see it in their eyes. They've got the fever. Behind the united roar from the hall, the Tories are bound for a split. Polly Toynbee seeks out the faithful to see if there is any salvation for a party gone mad



Schism, here we come!

The Prime Minister will make a brilliant speech today. Oh yes. In the hall they will cheer and stamp and stand up for a very long time. A party united, oh yes, yes! He will get a very good press, for the press and broadcasters fall for it every year, swept away by the shifting hysteria in the frenetic conference atmosphere. First they predict divisive trouble on the conference floor, (as if!) and then they celebrate each "surprise" triumphal platform speech – Rufford, Portillo and Clarke all got the treatment. Didn't they do well?

But you only need to know one thing: underneath all that, the Conservative Party has gone mad. You can see it in their eyes, all the symptoms of the deadly political plague called schism. I have seen it all before, been there before, done it myself, first in the old Labour Party, then in the SDP. For once schism takes hold of a party, it gallops through them like a flesh-eating bacterium. Can they save themselves now? Of course they could, but from the depth of their passion, I think not.

It is like watching lemmings running for the Bournemouth high cliff. They know where they are going and what they are doing but they can't stop themselves because it's all the other side's fault, never theirs. It's the other lot that started it. Who is to blame? They can all quote chapter and verse on who briefed or leaked first. In myriad overlapping fringe meetings on Europe, halls are packed to overflowing. Police had to be called to Bill Cash's to close the doors. Whatever happens in the well behaved "unity" conference hall, everywhere else the fever of schism is rife, a Gadarene stampede towards Euro-phobia.

No, not all of them are mad. But the sensible representatives are mainly very old and not all the old are sensible. Of course they all want to win. If only they could have won it, only the aged heavily outnumber the rest, giving an impression of a pensioners' conference, but the sensible have lost any sway over the wild young hordes. The party is like one of those dysfunctional families they so love to castigate, like a hunch of

grandparents dumped with badly behaved grandchildren who lack the discipline, self-control, respect or tolerance of their own young day.

I walked around the tables in the conference coffee lounge and talked to any representatives willing to speak to the press. Some hate the media too much to talk – a sure sign among political activists that all is not well. "You're not one of those traitors from the Telegraph?" hissed one.

Among a group in their early 30s was Mark Hughes, prospective candidate for Redditch, Mid Worcestershire, taking over from junior minister Eric Forth, who has fled a 4,000 majority on a chicken run to safer Bromley. So how does Hughes think they can win now? "Europe is the key to our fifth victory," he says instantly. I didn't raise the dread subject; he did. "Europe is what will win for us."

It will not be the economic boom, law and order, health, education or taxation, none of these bread-and-butter issues of everyday life. No, it is Europe, he says. "Goldsmith's £20m campaign will make it the key

election issue," he gloats, with relish for the fight. "When we lose the election we shall become a Euro-sceptic party within weeks. Our MPs in the next parliament will be far more Euro-sceptic. Why wait until we lose? Let's do it now and win!" The others, an agent from Runnymede and two women representatives from Cambridge, all agreed.

At a nearby table were some sensible. Katherine Banks of SW Devon, an older pragmatist of Majorite persuasion, sighs about the Euro-row but gamely believes, "they will all come to their senses. It is a very good thing to have a debate." Her companion, Mike Halsall, a businessman from Southport, says: "I wish they'd shut up, both sides." His order books are bursting, he's taking on more workers and they should win the election in this economic climate. "But," he adds, "splitting makes for unpopularity."

Two couples in their sixties, who did not wish to be identified, raised Europe before I even sat down. "Our only hope now," said one, "is the European card. Now I'm not anti-Europe, don't get me wrong." The others joined in here warmly: no, they are not anti-Europe, they go there for holidays – like people who say some of their best friends are Jews. "But if we said NO now to the single currency, NO to federalism, stand up for Britain, that would be the winning ticket!"

Queuing up for coffee, an elderly councillor, Dennis Birbeck of Sutton Coldfield, was wringing his hands. "People don't want to know about Europe out there on the doorstep. Us not-so-well-

informed folk don't understand what it's all about. My voters never mention it, never!"

The due to their mood is the dogs that do not bark. Like supernumerary old Dobermans, the party can hardly croak out a feeble ruff-ruff at the postman any longer. They have lost their taste for their favourite old bones: even the law and order debate hardly waggled their tails. Nor did social security. Lilley and Howard were as listless as their audience, with only a couple of dry dog biscuits to throw them. The floor summoned up no blood-curdling howls for too-nail extraction, chain-gangs or a return to the workhouse. Their hearts are not in it. Except, of course, when Howard and Lilley each slip Europe into their perorations. That got them going. Europe is the only show in town, spin as the doctors do.

One evening I wandered by mistake into a marquee to find a rowdy gathering of the National Association of Conservative Graduates. These are the slightly ageing bad boys and delinquents of the old abolished Conservative student federation. Mostly men, with a smattering of giggly Felicitys, among those stamping their feet to a Fortillo rattle-rattle, I found a huddle of prospective candidates talking of the glorious future. Selected for no hope seals in Jarrold, Easington, Wigan, Islwyn and Rother Valley, frankly, they didn't give a damn about winning this election. The future belongs to them. Their sights are all set on Next Time, in better seats – new

leader, new party and very dangerous indeed. The thought of this lot trailing around the council estates of the North-east or Wales would be comical if it weren't so disgusting.

Europe is the only thing on their minds. "The time of the Euro-sceptics has come!" declares Easington. "Europe," says Jarrold, "is the issue I was selected on." Do they talk of anything else on the Jarrold doorstep? "Well, my Tory voters do." Islwyn chips in, "We're the Thatcher generation, working our way up, the party. There's no stopping us now. We ARE the party." Rother Valley talks of his "cottage meetings" where Europe is raised. "There's no doubt," says Easington, "that the overwhelming mood of this conference and the country is Euro-sceptic."

The next night they gathered in black tie for the Young Conservatives' ball. "Young people everywhere hack us!" they claimed. So among the Easingtons, Jarrolds, Islwyns, Wigans and Rother Valleys and their plentiful ilk there was much dancing and champagne to be had at the conference. There was also the Conference Ball in Aid of the Marginal Seats – a needy cause indeed. As one observer remarked wryly of the doctored Congress of Vienna, "Le congrès ne marche pas, mais il danse."

In the glory days the Tories' great talent was for beating in rhythm with the popular pulse. Labour was the party of issues while the Tories talked tabloid about mugging, porn, morals, old folk, scrumpers, families and money in the pocket. For most people Europe is still just a big aim. It is what proportional

representation is to the Lib Dems when asked, people may agree it matters – but unprompted, they barely mention it. It is abstract and the divisions between factions far too arcane.

I sought out some Tory voters in "The Encounter" coffee shop inside Beales, Bournemouth's department store, shoppers were taking their afternoon tea. I spoke to 10 groups of people, nearly all Tories, some now wavering, and I asked them what they thought the most important issues were. Health, education, tax, pensions, long-term care, sleaze – all kinds of issues emerged but no one mentioned Europe spontaneously.

Penelope Bull, a dental receptionist, was having tea with her husband Geoff. He works for the Ministry of Defence. "I've always voted Conservative," she said. "But I'm definitely wavering. They are too much for the rich and not for the middle like us. I think wealthy people should pay more tax. I'd pay more for education. The rich get richer, the poor poorer. I could never have voted for Kinnock, but I could vote for Blair."

Shirley Bickham, in her fifties, is an estate manager for an industrial park full of small businesses, a life-long Conservative. "They've done nothing for small business, especially late paying of bills and business rates. They are more for the fat cats." She won't vote Labour, though, because her step-son was at university with Tony Blair and does not speak well of him. Her older friend complained about VAT on fuel and the price of residential homes.

Eliza Castle, of Edinburgh was having tea with Alice Williams – they were Wrens together in the war in Ceylon. Alice lives in Salisbury Cathedral Close, two doors down from Ted Heath. Both vote Conservative, but they are not very happy. Mrs Castle was of Labour might win. Why? "Sleaze, breaking the rules, that tells with the floating voter. Mind you, it would serve the voters right – they've forgotten what Labour is like!"

The Reverend Ralph Stanley Marshall and his wife Audrey were on holiday from their Sheffield evangelical church. "Tory voters who fear Labour will win. Why? They aren't talking about grass-roots things, like nurses and hospitals. They are the fat cats' party, too much corruption and too little integrity. Who can you trust?" Then he grumbles about lesbians and homosexuals, quoting Romans 1 on "that which is unseemly."

But no one mentioned Europe. No one. However, if the Euro-sceptics want to draw any comfort, once I mentioned it, they were almost all gut anti-Europeans. Some said, "I want out, absolutely," which is, of course, what the sceptics are saying, in easy-to-read code. No one was for a single currency. The question is, if the Euro-sceptics find their wicked way and the party marched to their tune, could they transform Europe from a politicians' obsession into the number one issue in The Encounter coffee shop? I still think not. For even if a Union Jack election might play well with voters, the Tories cannot do it without a split, losing Clarke, Heseltine and others – and schism kills.

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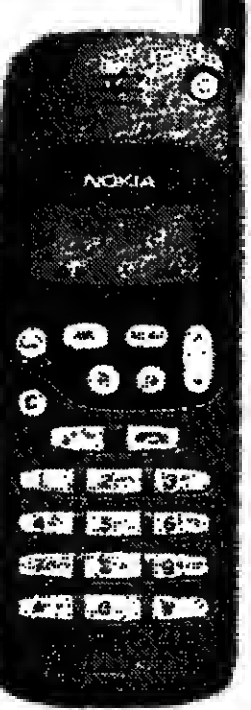
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Scapegoated wolf bites salty Welsh leper



Miles Kington

I sometimes receive protesting letters about thoughtless use of English and I only wish I had time to answer them all myself. Alas, this is not so, but rather than let them go unseen and unanswered, I think it makes more sense to use them to fill up a column. Thanks, everyone!

From the Leprosy Society
Sir, May we urge you to desist from using the phrase "moral leper", to designate someone who is outside the social pale? This ancient phrase dates from a time when leprosy was thought to

be highly contagious and incurable. Science has moved on, and so should language. I am not saying that all lepers are the salt of the earth, but people who suffer from leprosy are no more moral or immoral than anyone else. Why should the leper be the scapegoat? It is about time that society chose a term for the moral outcast which carried less offence. "Lone wolf" or simply "undesirable", perhaps?

From the Better Blood Movement

Sir, I saddens us yet again to see the expression "salt of the earth" being used so freely (see previous letter). The expression dates from a time when salt was scarce, and indeed valued for its preserving qualities, and therefore salt was felt to be a "good thing", as of course it is in the correct small quantities. Alas, it is now eaten in reckless quantities, (even young children are encouraged to use it down) and we know that it does us terrible harm, so it gives quite the wrong impression to use the expression "salt of the earth". A person who is really

be highly contagious and incurable. Science has moved on, and so should language. I am not saying that all lepers are the salt of the earth, but people who suffer from leprosy are no more moral or immoral than anyone else. Why should the leper be the scapegoat? It is about time that society chose a term for the moral outcast which carried less offence. "Lone wolf" or simply "undesirable", perhaps?

From the Goat Society

Sir, I think the man from the Leprosy Society was ill advised to use the expression scapegoat. There may have been a time when poor innocent goats were tied up in the desert for a rapacious wolf to savage, so as to take away the sins of society, but those days are long past. Could the goat please stop playing the image of the hapless victim? And also, come to that, could the goat PLEASE stop being a byword for lust? If I had a penny for every time I have heard someone described as a "randy old goat", I'd be rich. I'd be moderately well off on descriptions of Lloyd George alone!

From the Lycanthropy Club

Sir, I can hardly believe my eyes. Do you realise that every letter you have printed so far manages to reduce the image of the wolf? The "lone wolf", "I read", "Wolfing it down", "The 'rapacious wolf' ... and so on and so on. When will people ever

learn that the wolf is NOT rapacious, NOT savage, NOT a loner and NOT a greedy eater? The wolf does not attack humans. The wolf is no threat to us, so why do we always wish to keep it from the door? You would think in an enlightened age that the wolf would get a better press, but far from it. Every time there is a documentary about wolves on Channel 4 or a well informed piece in the *National Geographic* magazine, I feel, rather like Camille, that the waves of ignorance are about to recede. Like King Canute, I am doomed to disappointment. This dreadful ignorance is shared by the highest and lowest, from Cabinet minister to street Arab. I enclose a copy of our pamphlet: "Know Your Wolf", but without much hope.

From the Arab-British Friendship Society

Sir, Has the Zionist lobby got to you again? I am appalled to read in a letter you have published recently, in fact directly above mine, that you permit the use of the phrase "street Arab" in your column.

Why should the average illiterate urban be an Arab? Would you refer to him as a "street Israeli"? Or as a "street Jew"? Or even as a "street Semite"? I think not. Let us have no more of this atrocious racism.

From Professor Walter Reus

Sir, I am appalled to see a repetition of the old canard that King Canute thought he could order the waves back. The whole point of the story was that he knew he couldn't. He was chiding his courtiers for exaggerating his power. For heaven's sake let us get one historical fact straight in these benighted times!

From Mr Gwynny Davies

Sir, I have been waiting avidly for you to use the word "welsh" in a derogatory sense, as in "to welsh on someone", so that I could write in and protest. You haven't, but I am going to write in and protest anyway, because we Welsh are very sensitive about. Continued some other time, perhaps.

Good Europeans can say 'No' to a single currency

One of the really dreadful, depressing things about the present argument about European Monetary Union is that, in Britain at least, you are not allowed to be both pro-European and anti-EMU. Listen to the debate at the two party conferences, fringe meetings, Euro-commissioners warning of dire consequences of turning our back on Europe. For once I even found myself in sympathy with Kenneth Clarke, who pointed out a week ago that we could not even talk about EMU sensibly, the debate had become so politicised.

What makes it even more depressing is reading through the newspapers at the time of sterling's entry into the exchange rate mechanism. As part of the grand retrospective exercise this newspaper has been conducting to celebrate its 10th birthday, I found myself looking not just at the way we, as a paper, welcomed that event, but at the way it was presented to the Tory conference that immediately followed, as a financial and political triumph.

But of course we now can see (even Europhiles can see) it was a catastrophe, for it led to two enormous errors of economic policy. First, before ERM entry, the pound shadowed the German mark; this meant that interest rates could not be raised to choke off inflation, as to do so would have pushed sterling too high. Then, after entry (probably at too high a rate) interest rates had to be held too high to keep sterling in line. The trouble was, we did not say so. People who were pro-Europe, who wanted Europe to be successful as a cultural and economic entity, felt inhibited from criticising ERM entry for fear of letting down the Euro-enthusiasts.

Exactly that is happening now. The rational "good European" case against EMU is simply not being made. Sensible politicians of left and right who are pro-European but who privately have grave doubts about EMU are silent for fear of having their words twisted and used against them.

In fact, there is indeed a powerful case against EMU that good Europeans here in Britain should be making. It comes in two parts. The first is why much of Continental Europe is making a mistake, the second is that as Europe is making a mistake, it is in Europe's over-riding self-interest (as well as Britain's) that at least one sizeable chunk of the European Union should stay out of it.

Some of the arguments against EMU have been identified ever since the idea was first mooted: that the region encompasses too diverse a set of economies to have a single monetary policy; that if there is a single monetary policy there will have to be very large fiscal transfers, or transfers of labour, between countries; that having a single monetary authority beyond all democratic control is not acceptable politically; that denying a country the right to change its exchange rate was to take away a crucial element of nationhood.

But the past few weeks have shown a new raft of practical objections. The various European countries have scrambled to produce budgets that nominally bring their deficits below 3 per cent in 1997. We do not know what the economic and political consequences of a savage, simultaneous fiscal squeeze will be, but we can see an extraordinary degree of fiscal manipulation—devices that would be unacceptable in the private sector—taking place. For example,



Hamish McRae

Britain's staying out of monetary union could offer a welcome insurance policy for its partners were their risky experiment to fail

possible, if only to buttress our exports. The fact that over the past 20 years we have increased the proportion of visible exports to the EU from a little over 40 per cent to about 56 per cent is cited as a success of European integration. But turn that argument on its head. We have decreased the proportion of exports to other regions—North and South America, East Asia, India—from 60 per cent to 44 per cent. Is that really wise, given the faster growth performance of those markets? Visible trade only brings in half our export earnings, with investment and service income accounting for the rest: 85 per cent of our investment income is from outside the EU.

But those are "bad European" arguments for staying out of EMU. The good European one goes like this. If Europe does go ahead, it is taking a gigantic, breathtaking risk. It is coming close to betting nearly 50 years of successful economic and political co-operation on one throw of the dice. If a single currency is adopted and large parts of the EU are thrown into deep depression by inappropriate monetary policies, the whole concept of the union is in jeopardy. If the vast majority of EU members are in the single currency, collapse of the currency would probably signal the end of EU. It would be seen historically as a failed experiment, an effort to force the diverse nations of Europe into a form into which they did not fit.

If, on the other hand, several large European nations—in particular, Britain—were not part of the currency union, but still members of the EU, then the collapse of the single currency would not be so catastrophic. The EU might survive, with the "ins" simply re-establishing the franc and the mark alongside the pound. So Britain staying out is not a petulant, foot-dragging exercise. It is an insurance policy against failure, and one that good Europeans on both sides of the Channel should respect and acknowledge.

So this is National Breast Awareness Week. Looking around me I wonder if it is possible to be more aware of breasts than we already are. Breasts are everywhere: on billboards, on the front of magazines, inside newspapers.

I am more than aware of Pamela Anderson's breasts. Helena Christensen's follow me around. You can see Demi Moore's breasts flying towards you as she rips off her shirt at a cinema near you. Eva Herzigova's have become entities in their own right.

Caprice Bourret, the new Wonderbra woman, has had hers on show recently. For this is also National Wonderbra Week and, for every bra sold, £1 goes towards the breast cancer research charity Breakthrough. All this breast-baring is in a good cause, then. This newspaper has even had its own Breast Awareness supplement, with its guide to the risks, symptoms and treatment of breast cancer.

Yet we are terribly muddled about breasts. Perhaps we always have been. The breast, as Freud once said, is the place where hunger and desire meet. Yet the source of our anxiety at the moment is that we know that breasts link those two taboos—sex and death—in a way that makes us more than uncomfortable. Breasts may have their fun sides but they also have their downside, cancer being one of them. Trying to merge these two languages is very difficult. The Cancer Research Campaign does it with an ad that reads: "Do more for your breasts than any bra can. Examine them."

Women's reluctance to examine their own breasts stems from the feeling that somehow their breasts do not belong to them, that they have little right to this part of their bodies, that they are somehow separate from them. Increasingly this appears not as a peculiarly female neurosis but a cultural one. The free-floating cleavages on view in every street are implicitly connected with a medical discourse that also claims some sort of ownership over the diseased breast.

One can see the Wonderbra years as a source for celebration and I am as fond of them as the next man. Fashion writers tell us beguilingly that breasts were becoming more apparent in the Eighties but they really made a comeback in the early Nineties. (Where had they been before, one might ask?)

Some of this was down to Italian dress designers. Some of



Our breasts belong to us, not to babies, partners or doctors, says Suzanne Moore

it was down to Vivienne Westwood's bras worn over clothes and some of it was down to Madonna's ferociously pointy breasts designed by Gaultier. These were aggressive breasts, breasts as weapons, as culture rather than nature, thrust out by women who knew exactly whose property they were. It was a "look but don't touch" look, and Gossard, which had to lay people off in the Eighties, was able to go into the Nineties with the workforce busy seven days a week.

Now the launch of a new bra is a national event; the models in the ads become instant celebrities. Who last week had heard of Caprice Bourret? Now she is on television presenting awards and in a Versace net curtain, breasts pushed upwards and upwards.

Yet as Brigid McCannville says in her book on the subject—appropriately titled *Mixed*—swimsuit in some Seventies time-warps.

Whereas once upon a time Page 3 guaranteed a path to a "glamorous" world full of boxers, B-list pop stars and opening supermarkets, it now looks more and more like a dead-end job. Those who have got it become supermodels, those who haven't just flaunt it more mundanely than ever before.

As Page 3 girl Ruth Gordan says in that seminal work, *Storm in a D-Cup*, "some of the girls become prima donnas. They get a bit starry-eyed and think they're superstars overnight—when all you're really doing is standing there with your breasts exposed."

The current prevalence of exposed breasts can be put down to a post-feminist, laddish culture that thinks it's all a bit of a laugh.

Men will be men, which means in other words it is the women's job "to get their tits out". Yet at a time when women are encroaching on male power in several vital areas it is hardly surprising that there is a move to keep them in their properly decorative and passive place. Hence the boom in lap dancing alongside the familiar, but sad, "topless beauty" on the card behind the pub pennants.

If women can do the things that men do, their exposed breasts serve to remind us continuously

humorously in jokes and put-downs, in movies like Russ Meyer's *Cherry Morgan and her Deadly Weapons*, in which our heroine suffocates men with her breasts, in our obsession with freaks such as Pandora Peaks, whose massive breasts appear more painful than pleasurable.

Pain, however, is something that women keep to themselves. We breastfeed our babies in toilets, for God's sake. While it seems to matter little whether Pamela Anderson's breasts are real or not, breast implants have been found to be dangerous. The carcinogenic effects of silicone in rats are well documented. It has been claimed that implants cause continuously leak silicone into the body yet the demand for breast implants grows.

We live in a country that has one of the highest rates of mortality for breast cancer in the world. Some doctors have said that one is likely to receive better treatment in Bombay than we do in Britain. Early detection is vital, but the practice and language of the medical establishment leave a lot to be desired. Mammograms, needles inserted without anaesthetic, diagrams drawn on breasts that are in removed—all of this feels punitive. Many cancer patients report that they feel that the doctors owned their breasts and that they are silly to mourn their loss.

Both the titillation of popular imagery and the de-personalised jargon of medicine fuel the same fallacy—that someone else has rights over this part of our anatomy. If National Breast Awareness Week is to achieve anything it is the simple message that our breasts belong to us, not our babies, not our partners, not our doctors. They are part of us, not all of us, they give us pleasure as well as giving others pleasure. The task is to put breasts back into our own hands—literally, as well as metaphorically, if we want to save lives.

Male fear erupts oddly and

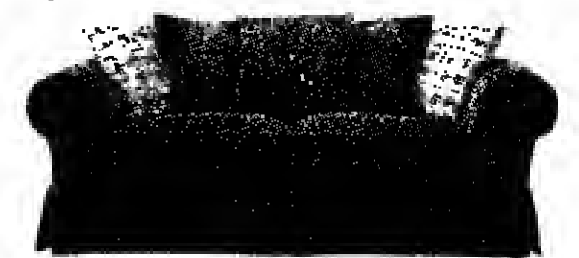
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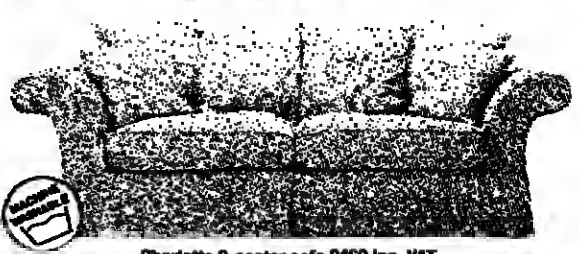
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REGULATORY PRICE

Germans give us a lesson in Eng Lit

Potsdam has its problems. It was a small garrison town until 1744, when Frederick the Great adopted it as his country seat. Here he built Sanssouci ("without cares"), a holiday home in flamboyant high baroque—read camp—style.

In April 1945 the town centre was bombed in a spectacular heavy raid; thereafter the Allied division of Germany placed it in the East. Perhaps not surprisingly the Communist regime felt uneasy with the city's imperial associations and attempts to build a "new, socialist Potsdam" were hardly aesthetically successful.

With moves towards reunification starting in 1989, West Berlin rediscovered its connections with Potsdam, and an enormous amount of western cash is visibly pumping into the city—so far with rather mixed results. In the beautiful "Dutch quarter", where red-brick gabled houses were built for the construction workers from Holland, there is an awkward mixture of derelict squats, enterprising art shops and exquisitely restored town houses. Capitalism recolonising the East—with problematic results.

So you might think that Germans there would have better things to think about than contemporary women writers in



Sarah Maillard

A writer's conference in Potsdam reveals an extraordinary familiarity with contemporary British feminist fiction

Britain. You would be wrong. I have just returned from a conference—held, I should add, entirely in English—entitled "Engendering Realism and Postmodernism: Contemporary Women Writers in Britain", organised by the University of Potsdam, with papers contributed from 17 different universities from both sides of the old East/West divide and from Britain. Unlike most such conferences, they had also invited eight of the women novelists themselves, and organised public readings in Berlin.

This is unusual and bold—literary conferences are usually rigorously divided: either academic or literary. To be innovative in a foreign language is itself impressive. The young German intellectuals there are going to be leading Europeans in the next generation—bilingual, cross-culturally informed and creative. Distinctively German.

I had a wonderful time. It was ego-enhancing and interesting. But underlying the pleasure was an increasing sense of shame. Britain is so insular, so provincial—so *unfit*, candidly, to be a European country.

Of course, the papers were given by university teachers and graduate students from English departments; you would expect them to talk English—but fluent, witty,

idiomatic English, which even attempted regional accents? I have rung a couple of friends from modern European language departments in British universities and none was able to contemplate a conference here, held in German, on contemporary German authors, let alone well-attended public readings in which all questions from the floor came in German.

Now why would nearly 100 German academics, mostly but not exclusively women, want to hear from, and lecture on, British feminist writers, when clearly their British equivalents have no parallel interest? One reason seems to be that the German literary curriculum is so fixed around a "grand canon" that it is difficult to study German women writers. Shifting to English (or American) studies offers a chance to study more contemporary women's books.

In casual conversations, I also learnt that these Germans are asking questions about themselves. German ideas of nationality have meant that while large numbers of "Germans" have "come home" from eastern Europe, it is proving terribly hard to accommodate the larger Turkish population. The fact that four (Eva Figs, Ravinder Randhawa, Debjani Chatterjee and Sanli

Namjoshi) of the eight invited British writers (the others were Maureen Duffy, Zoe Fairbairns, Gillian Hanscombe, and me) did not have English as their mother tongue cannot have been coincidental. Ethnicity is, as ever, an important social issue for Germans.

Feminism is another reason. German women, since reunification, are looking for a shared history. Professional women from the East do not feel they have done as well as they might out of reunification—they have lost as much as they have gained.

"In the East," said an Easterner to me, "we had social feminism—nurseries, workplace rights, equal pay. In the West, they had better orgasms! Better orgasms without nursery places feels pretty useless." Meanwhile, the West has pursued an ideal of self-fulfilment as a self-evident good. These concerns may help explain why a surprisingly large number of papers were about connections between writers, or sources or a history of modern feminist ideas refracted through novels.

These are all good reasons for German interest in contemporary British writing, but I believe that the main source of their concern is a self-confident and straightforward curiosity. There is nothing to lose, they were saying—in con-

trast to British fearfulness—and potentially a lot to gain by knowing more writers, more women, more stories. It was not British experience, in particular, that they sought to learn about, so much as that which is human, and different.

To my shame, if I am honest, I could not even name eight contemporary German women writers. But in German bookshops, ordinary non-specialist bookshops; British books—not world bestsellers, not bookbusters, just middle-run literary novels—were readily available in paperback, both in translation and in the original. I did not encounter a shop assistant or taxi driver who did not know at least the basic civilities of English, and show a willingness to have a go at communication.

I have always been a pro-European, on abstract, anti-nationalist grounds. Now I want to be in a Europe with these people (along, I have no doubt, with just as many self-righteous, prejudiced idiots, bigots and bores as we have here). We need to invest, on our side, in these sorts of exchanges. Every one needs more friends, new friends. It's good for you.

Potsdam was fun. I certainly don't want ignorance and fear masquerading as superiority and xenophobia to be seen as "distinctively British". We have a lot to learn.

Reed-Elsevier and VNU consider Blenheim deal

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

VNU, the Dutch publishing group, has held informal talks with Reed-Elsevier over the future of Blenheim, the exhibitions company at the centre of a looming takeover battle.

VNU, which built up a 15 per cent stake in Blenheim on Tuesday, during a dawn raid pitched at 500p, is understood to have discussed various options aimed at resolving the complicated situation with executives from Reed-Elsevier, the Dutch arm of the Anglo-Dutch conglomerate.

Reed, which had hoped to elicit its own, agreed bid at 480p this week, is believed to be willing to discuss ways of providing VNU with some of Blenheim's assets in return for the Dutch company's support for a slightly sweetened offer for Blenheim from Reed. Such an offer would require the support of Blenheim directors, who control 40 per cent of the

shares, and who have been holding out for an offer in excess of 500p a share. Suggestions that Reed would have to spend up to 530p were widely discounted yesterday, although the shares rose 25p to close at 482.5p, a three-year high, partly on the expectation that VNU would be back in the market next week to take its stake to as high as 29.9 per cent.

Another option would be to strike a deal that would leave VNU as a long-term shareholder, leaving Reed in the drivers' seat following a successful bid for the rest of the company's shares. Reed-Elsevier declined to comment yesterday.

According to market sources in Holland, VNU's decision to take the 15 per cent shareholding can only be fully understood against the backdrop of intense competition between VNU and Elsevier, two leading Dutch publishing concerns.

"VNU bought itself into any outcome in the Blenheim saga," said one analyst. "But it also probably enjoyed making life difficult for Elsevier, its big rival."

The two companies both own a stable of consumer and specialist interest magazines and are engaged in electronic publishing. Elsevier has generally performed better than VNU, according to Dutch analysts, and relations between the two are thought to be acrimonious. But their shared interest in Blenheim is believed to have been strong enough to lead to this week's direct contacts.

Blenheim continued to have no comment on the bid situation yesterday. But it is understood that VNU contacted Blenheim's management on Tuesday, after the dawn raid, but that the two sides did not meet. Meanwhile, United News & Media, which made an approach for Blenheim this summer, pitched at about 450p, remained on the sidelines, although it is believed UNM has not yet ruled out making a bid if a competitive situation develops. It emerged last night that UNM has had no contact whatsoever with Blenheim since July, when Lord Hollick, UNM's chief executive, suspended the discussions. It is believed that UNM will make no further move until the intentions of VNU and Reed have become clear.

Hambro Magan in £70m bonanza from NatWest bid

JILL TREANOR
Banking Correspondent

Forty of the City's top corporate financiers are set to share in a £70m bonanza after NatWest Markets yesterday snapped up the investment banking boutique Hambro Magan.

The two remaining co-founders of the business - George Magan and the American financier Alton Iry III - are thought to be receiving at least £20m from the deal. Hambro Magan's 38 other employees, including Sir Michael Richardson, a leading light at the company, are reckoned to be getting "golden handcuff" payments of £1m each.

Neither Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, or Mr Magan would reveal the terms of the deal. But City insiders said that Mr Magan would not sell off his stake in the company he formed in 1988 for less than £10m. Mr Magan said: "There is a significant element of golden handcuffs."

Together with the individual payments to Hambro Magan's staff this would imply a total value for the deal of around £70m if it was conducted under similar terms to NatWest's acquisition last year of Gleacher in the US for which it paid \$135m.

The deal came as a shock in the City where Hambro Magan has built a reputation as a skilled deal-maker precisely because of its independence, size and nimble approach. Last year Hambro Magan was ranked 15th in the UK mergers and acquisitions league table advising on deals valued at \$4.45bn. Among the biggest deals it has handled in the eight years since it was set up are Ford's \$1.6bn takeover of Jaguar, Deutsche Bank's \$950m acquisition of Morgan Grenfell, Rhone-Poulenc's hostile bid for Fisons and the £2.9bn MAI-United News and Media merger.

The deal is part of NatWest's push into the corporate finance arena and quashes speculation that the bank would snap up Rothschild to help boost its image after the Blue Arrow affair. Mr Owen said: "It's a new operation, which will be run out of a new, as yet undecided, location in the City, will propel NatWest Markets up to the forefront of the highly competitive corporate finance world."

The combined transactions of NatWest, Hambro Magan and Gleacher NatWest reaches \$50 bn (£32bn) for the first nine months of the year, placing the entire operation at number 11 in the world league tables of deals. Mr Magan, 50, will take a new role at NatWest Markets, becoming chairman of UK and continental European corporate advisory business with a package that looks him on long-term. "He is pretty firmly lashed to the tiller," Mr Owen said.

Mr Magan said: "It's more akin to a significant team moving [than a merger], like Deutsche Morgan Grenfell taking a team out of ING Barings" said Mr Magan.

Comment, page 21



Beneficiaries: George Magan (left) and Sir Michael Richardson, are both winners after 'golden handcuffs' deal

Warning issued on Internet banking

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

The Bank of England yesterday warned depositors to be careful about using an Antigua bank which has been promoting itself over the Internet, using the name of an English peer.

European Union Bank was chaired until last month by Lord Mancroft, an Old Etonian former heroin addict who campaigns for gun hunting and drug law reform.

He was called in yesterday by the Bank of England to explain the Antigua bank's operations. A Bank of England spokesman said: "We raised our concerns with him."

The Bank of England's public expression of concern about Internet banking is a result of fears that the new means of communication will put large numbers of banking transactions beyond the reach of supervisors and make it easier to launder money.

The Internet allows deposit holders to solicit business anywhere in the world over an information network with no national boundaries.

The Bank said it was not aware of EUB advertising in any other way in the UK and no depositor had come forward to complain. Any deposits would not be made over the Internet but by conventional money transfer.

A Bank spokesman said: "We would advise any Internet depositor to carry out appropriate due diligence in the bank and to establish what, if any, deposit insurance is available." EUB is not covered by UK deposit insurance.

Lord Mancroft is the deputy chairman of the British Financial Society, chairman of two drug rehabilitation organisations and is involved in a Scratch 'n' Win cash business. He said: "I have no problem with what they are saying."

Lloyd's issues first writs against names

JOHN WILLCOCK

Rupert Galliers-Pratt, the colourful Old Etonian financier, Tony Gooda, of the Gooda Walker syndicates, and Robin Kingsley, of the Lime Street Agency, are among 150 names that are the subject of writs lodged yesterday by the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

Lloyd's is seeking to recover more than £500m in unpaid debts from around 1,800 names who have refused to accept Lloyd's £3.2bn compensation deal for losses incurred by the market in recent years.

Writs against another 50 or so names will be lodged in the High Court today. Lloyd's plans to take immediate legal action against 20 of the first 200 targets, but has refused to say who these will be.

More than 32,000 names have signed up for the settlement package and, in return, agreed to end legal action against Lloyd's and its agents. A Lloyd's spokesman yesterday said he did not know what criteria Lloyd's had used to select the 200 names who are named in the first writs.

The amount of money owed to Lloyd's by the 1,800 non-acceptors would have been reduced to around £100m, had they accepted the settlement deal, the spokesman said.

A list of the first 150, in possession of the Independent, contains many names well known in the market.

One subject of a writ, Sally Noel, is a leading light of the United Names Organisation, a new pressure group formed by so-called "refuseniks", those names who have rejected the Lloyd's reconstruction package.

Probably most well known is Mr Galliers-Pratt, a flamboyant financier and Old Etonian who has been associated with a number of failed businesses.

Mr Gooda led the Gooda Walker syndicates which made the highest losses in the recent years when Lloyd's fortunes plummeted. The UK courts awarded a £500m award against the Gooda Walker syndicates on behalf of those involved in the market.

Mr Kingsley was a member of the Lime Street Agency, a members' agent.

Lloyd's of London has embarked on this tough line of legal action after years of agonising negotiations in order to refinance itself and avoid financial disaster. Brought low by huge asbestos claims and a series of natural disasters, Lloyd's also suffered from bad management. Now the market's future has been assured by the restructuring, but is determined to press on to recoup the £500m it claims it is owed by the refuseniks.

One of Nick Leeson's former bosses is taking ING Barings to an industrial tribunal next week claiming £500,000 in unpaid bonuses after being sacked over the affair.

Mary Walz, one of 21 senior Barings executives dismissed following the scandal, will appear before the tribunal in east London claiming that the bank was in breach of contract for failing to pay the bonus.

ING, which rescued Barings after it crashed with losses of £830m, paid out £90m in staff bonuses but none of those sacked over the affair received a penny. Ms Walz, an American who joined Barings from Bankers Trust in 1992, is claiming the £500,000 bonus for work she did in 1994 before the bank's collapse.

Ms Walz was head of equity financial products in London and, as such, one of Leeson's direct line managers with day-to-day responsibility for supervision of his activities.

In the Bank of England report into the Barings affair she was criticised for not checking closely enough on Leeson's trading.

The industrial tribunal has the power under the Wages Act to order an employer to pay the full amount claimed. Barings maintained she had no entitlement to the bonus.

The decision of Barings to pay bonuses - some of which derived from income generated from Leeson's activities in Singapore - prompted widespread criticism, but the bank said it would have provoked a staff exodus had the bonuses not been paid.

A number of other Barings executives sacked as a result of the scandal are challenging findings against them. The Securities and Futures Authority found five Barings executives guilty of failure to show due skill, care and diligence earlier this year. Four other former executives are challenging similar findings.



Liberty International, run by Donald Gordon (right), is joining Hermes, the big fund manager, in a new strategic alliance that is claimed will shake up the UK pensions industry. The BT pension fund, which owns Hermes, is transferring £1.5bn of its assets to give a kick start to a new pension fund management company set up by Liberty to specialise in money purchase schemes. Hermes, whose chief executive is Alastair Ross-Grobbey (left), will be manager for index tracking funds, and other specialist managers will be recruited. Meanwhile, Liberty is to launch new direct sales personal pension business in the UK next year.

Sacked Barings manager claims bonuses

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Chemical firms set up more joint ventures

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Shell, BASF and Hoechst, three of Europe's biggest chemical groups, yesterday took a further step towards restructuring the overcrowded European chemical industry with the announcement of two new joint ventures.

Shell and BASF of Germany said they would pool their European polyethylene businesses and bring in the polyethylene operations outside the US of Montell, a separate joint venture between Shell and Montedison. The new grouping is expected to command about 12 per cent of the European market for polyethylene, putting it among the top three producers, alongside Dow of the US and Borealis, another European joint venture producer.

Meanwhile, BASF announced it had signed an agreement with its German rivals Hoechst to merge their polypropylene interests in a joint company. Analysts expect this to command a 23 per cent market share in Europe, just behind the leaders, Montell.

The news comes just days after Shell announced it was in talks with Tesco about merging their US refining and marketing businesses. No values were being put on the latest deals, which will involve sales of DM2.1bn (£376m) for BASF or just over 4 per cent of last year's group total, and DM800m for Hoechst. Shell did not disclose the turnover involved.

The moves are part of a general move in the chemical industry to restructure in the face of savage swings in prices over the last few years and what observers believe will be looming over-capacity problems in the years ahead. Tony Cox of Kleinwort Benson Securities said companies were trying to position themselves and "de-fragment" ahead of a downturn in prices which could come in 1998. "In theory, this type of market consolidation should reinforce prices when the market is strong now and help put [the companies] in a stronger position to cope with the flood-bath that could come in the year 2000," Mr Cox said.

In recent years, Shell and Montedison have established Montell, while Statoil of Norway and the Finnish oil group Neste set up the Borealis plastics operation. Yesterday's Shell-BASF deal, which will give each side a 50 per cent stake in the new entity, will subsume the existing Rheinische Olefinwerke joint venture at Wesseling in Germany between BASF and Deutsche Shell.

STOCK MARKETS									
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield (%)	Index	Close	Day's change
FTSE 100	3994.70	-14.80	-0.4	4036.80	3632.30	3.93	Nikkei	22986.57	-10.00
FTSE 250	4432.80	+1.30	+0.0	4568.60	4015.30	3.46	Dow Jones	8912.50	-10.00
FTSE 350	1989.80	-5.80	-0.3	2006.10	1816.60	3.82	Hang Seng	10171.00	-10.00
FT SmallCap	2175.68	-1.64	-0.1	2244.36	1954.06	3.12	Shanghai	340.00	-10.00
FT All-Share	1963.89	-5.19	-0.3	1978.82	1791.95	3.17	Hong Kong	12242.47	-10.00
New York	5925.77	-4.65	-0.1	5982.86	5692.94	2.15	Frankfurt	2680.75	-10.00
Tokyo				22986.57	19734.70	0.77			
Source: FT Information									

INTEREST RATES									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year	10 Year
UK	5.51	6.19	7.48	8.15	7.59	8.28			
US	5.25	5.75	6.59	6.06	6.86	6.41			
Japan	0.58	0.93		2.74					
Germany	3.06	3.13	6.01	6.61	6.84				
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Index	Price	Change	Yield	Index	Price	Change	Yield	Index	Price
BTG	2562.5	175	7.3	Clark (Matthew)	314	25	7.4		
Brown/Orbison	421	22	5.5	Albert Fisher Grp	39.5	1.3	3.1		
Blenheim Group	482.5	25	5.5	Johnston Press	170.5	5	2.7		

CURRENCIES									
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
\$ (London)	1.5583	+0.18c	1.5570	£ (London)	0.8384	-0.08	0.8341		
¥ (London)	1.5655	+0.05c	1.5724	¥ (London)	0.8388	-0.02	0.8360		
DM (London)	2.3880	+0.47c	2.2364	DM (London)	1.5298	+0.15c	1.4223		
₹ (London)	174.285	-10.33	157.625	₹ (London)	111.275	-10.21	100.245		
S (London)	87.2	+0.1	84.2	S (London)	97.2	-0.1	93.0		
OTHER INDICATORS									
Index	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
Oil Brent \$	23.79	-0.79	15.91	RPI	153.8	-0.45pc	150.6	14 Nov	
Gold \$	382.16	+0.65	383.50	GDP	108.1	+2.27pc	105.7	25 Oct	
Gold £	243.98	+0.14	243.91	Base Rates			5.75pc	6.75	

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COMMENT

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business

Warnings investors should note

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

One of the hardest things for investors is to admit they got it wrong and cut their losses. It is so tempting to look at a flagging share and believe another 20p or whatever will bring you back to the price you paid - before you know it the share has fallen another 50p and rather than facing up to a £200 loss you're getting in a flap about a £700 hit.

Drawing a line under the investment then becomes that much harder, so you hold on in the vain hope that things will get better. Finally, you bite the bullet and take a loss maybe four or five times bigger than you should have done.

This startled rabbit effect is clearest when a company unexpectedly issues a profits warning. The shock of seeing 40 or 50 per cent wiped off the value of your investment in one day renders you incapable of thinking clearly about the situation and a small bounce the following day is often enough to persuade you that the market has over-reacted. Sometimes it has, but take a look at the charts below. More often these days a profits warning is just the beginning of the bad news.

In recent months there has been a spate of warnings of this sort. Matthew Clark is one of the clearest examples - 670p one day, 430p the next, 306p 10 days later. But there have been plenty of others - Inspec down 29 per cent in two weeks, First Information Group down 87 per cent in three weeks, Stratagem down 29 per cent in two days.

Tilney & Co, the Liverpool-based regional broker, has studied a raft of recent profit warnings in search of themes. Obviously, with such a range of companies, the picture is rather complex, but a number of strands have emerged.

The first common feature of recent collapses has been the sheer scale of the fall and the fact that it tends to continue for many trading days before turning into a gentle downward drift. In the past, share price tumblers tended to be tempered by contrarians who moved into the market and took the edge off the downward pressure. Bottom fishers are far less in evidence now.

Secondly, there seems to be a preponderance of dramatic falls among highly rated but poorly understood hi-tech or biotech companies. The technical knowledge required to understand many quoted companies these days has simply moved out of the orbit of most investors. They become mesmerised by exponential growth prospects and panic when the wheels appear to come off.

But plainly such an explanation does little to answer why the market

is punishing companies like the cider maker Matthew Clark so harshly. In situations such as this, where investors have a good understanding of the dynamics of a business, Tilney believes the explanation has more to do with the current high level of the market. At around 4,000, investors are uncomfortable and desperate to be in "quality" stocks when the music stops. By definition, a company that warns on profits is not "quality" and investors run for the exit.

So what should you do in the unfortunate event that one of your investments goes sour? First, forget the old stock market advice that you should never panic - get out as quickly as you can. You will miss out on some rebounds, but in many more cases you will avoid further declines. In Tilney's words, profits warnings, like buses, often come in threes - selling after the first will often look sensible by the time the third comes along.

Second, with the market riding high, look for quality. Relatively low price-earnings ratios provide a cushion if your investment rationale hangs on a high prospective growth rate. Make sure your company's earnings are backed up by strong cash flow, which is much harder to fudge. Finally, avoid shares which are underperforming the rest of the

market, even by a small amount - the lukewarm attitude of investors could well be an early sign of bad news around the corner.

N Brown's style impresses City

With its slightly old-fashioned name and product lines which include size 26 dresses, the mail order group N Brown has often been regarded as something of a stock market oddity. The fact that Sir David Alliance, the Coats Viyella chairman, and his family control 40 per cent of the group has also given the impression that it was little more than his "second company". The last year has changed all that.

Last December's £1.1bn bid for Littlewoods in conjunction with Iceland, gave notice that N Brown was now a force to be reckoned with. It also showed the company's management that it had the backing of the City. Analysts savaged Iceland's lofty ambitions but supported N Brown's. The Manchester-based group has developed into a £600m business still firing on all cylinders.

The latest set of figures were again deeply impressive. Pre-tax profits rose by 27.4 per cent to £12.6m in the six months to the end of August. The second half has also started well.

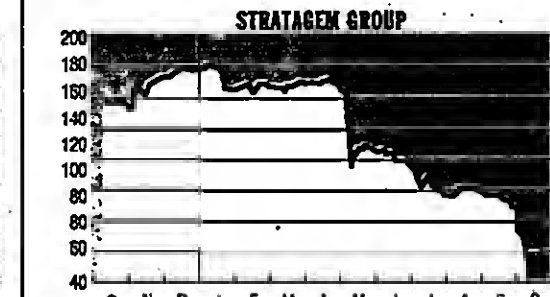
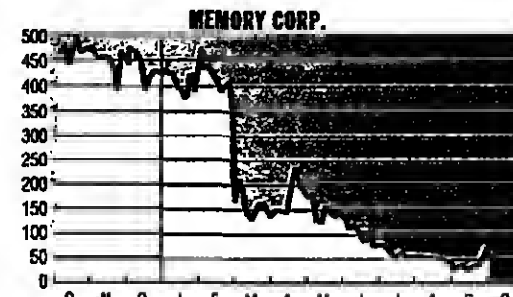
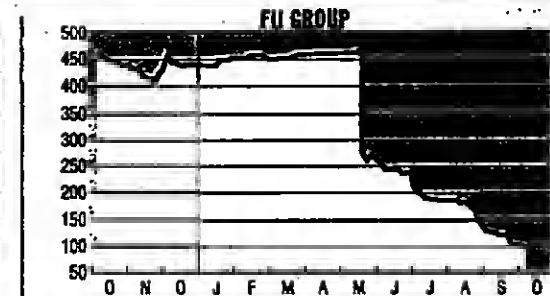
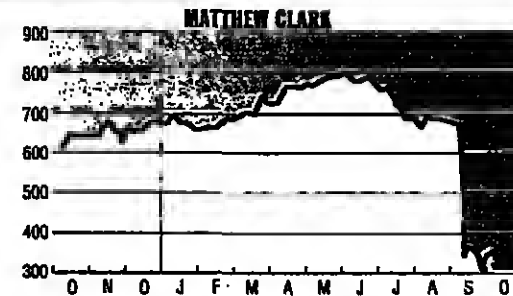
Every one of the group's mail order catalogues improved sales and profits in the period, while the Sator acquisition, picked up in May for £6m, contributed £200,000.

Though N Brown's core customer remains over 50, it has been moving more to attract the 30- to 40-year-old shopper. Catalogues such as Classic Combination and Fashion World, which were launched two years ago, are expected to achieve sales of around £50m in the full year, almost 20 per cent of group sales.

A new telephone call centre is being opened in Bury and the possibility of telephone operators working from home is being explored. N Brown is also moving to take more control of the distribution end of the business. It aims to establish a network of 1,200 couriers across the country. These private individuals will deliver products, pick up returns and help the company develop a closer relationship with the customer.

N Brown shares have trebled in five years and closed 22p higher at 421p yesterday. With full-year forecasts of £36.5m they trade on a forward rating of 25. Even for a company of this quality, that is pretty demanding for a new purchase but the shares are worth holding.

SOMETIMES THEY JUST KEEP FALLING



Source: Datastream

Pearl prepares to conker the world

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

The 32nd annual Pearl World Conker Championships are upon us. Nearly 350 competitors from the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany and Holland are limbering up for the championships in Ashton in Northamptonshire.

Pearl, the assurance company, has its headquarters in nearby Peterborough, and sponsors the event because "our industry has a fairly dull image and this is wacky," says a Pearl spokesman.

Geoff Delany, Pearl's company secretary, says: "In this industry we're no strangers to rules and regulations and neither are the conker players. In the Pearl Championships no-one is allowed to pick, bake or otherwise tamper with their nuts."

"If they do, they lose their licence to play. The only performance-enhancing substances permitted are those available in the beer tent."

The conkerfest raises around £14,000 a year for charity and has been won only once by someone from overseas, a Mexican, who not only conkered everyone 16 years ago.

The Pearl spokesman says that another way of hardening a conker is to "pass it

through a pig". Something to do with acid in the pig's stomach. Wacky indeed.

Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur and Amstrad, was asked yesterday about merchandising Manchester United's results earlier in the week had shown how well the Reds were doing from fingering whisky, lager and lints of other things. So how are Spurs doing?

Mr Sugar replied: "Because they've [Manchester United] been so successful and they're champions, they are known and respected throughout the

world. They can put their name to just about anything - beer, shoelaces, toothbrushes. At the moment, we're on bed linen."

A successful American concept which links saving businesses money with giving to charity is about to be launched in the UK, courtesy of the Prince's Trust and Business in the Community.

Gifts in Kind is chaired by Sir Peter Ellwood, chief executive designate at Lloyds TSB. It is based on the Gifts in Kind charity in America, which annually transfers

\$400m from business to good causes in America.

The idea is based on what to do with millions of pounds worth of goods which businesses find are surplus to requirements. Instead of storing or destroying these surpluses, which is expensive, Gifts in Kind will connect businesses with hundreds of charities nationwide and enable them to pass on the goods. Everyone wins.

Richard Cresswell, a spokesman for the scheme, who formerly worked for the Investors Compensation Scheme, says: "Businesses usually find the subject of waste embarrassing. This will offer them a completely confidential way to get rid of the stuff and save money."

Goods include anything from computers to clothes. Anyone interested in the scheme should contact Mr Cresswell on 0171 204 5003.

Internet cafes such as Cyberia, where you can sip coffee and surf the Internet at the same time, are not new. Entrepreneurs Bev Ripley and Terry Norris think they have hit on a new formula, however. They plan to launch 100 Hands On cafes in the UK over the next two years.

"Our cafes will act as computer training centres for small businesses and individuals, as well as providing the Internet," Mr Norris said.

He said Hands On was not so different from the duo's past two ventures. They built Cityvision, the 800-strong Ritz video rentals chain, which they sold to Blockbuster Video in 1992 for £80m.

"The cafes will be very like a rental business. You can pay to use the computers by the hour - say £5 for an hour's worth of the Internet. It makes more sense for us to buy the hardware than individuals, where their PC will sit in the corner at home unused for most of the day."

Mr Ripley and Mr Norris followed Ritz by building a chain of video games shops called Future Zone, which they sold to US stores chain Electronics Boutique.

"Hands On will be similar to Future Zone, in that we will sell software and modems as well," Mr Norris said.

The duo have raised £1.1m via a rights issue for the cafes' holding company, Reflex, and open their first cafe in London on Sunday.

John Willcock



Going nuts: conker championships enhance Pearl's image

Bosman ruling costs Spurs £7.3m

NIGEL COPE

Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, said yesterday that the company had taken a £7.3m provision to adjust the balance sheet value of the football club's players in the light of the Bosman ruling. The club's wage bill would rise by 20 per cent to £10m a year due to the renegotiation of some player contracts.

This followed Manchester United's statement earlier this week that its wage bill would rise by £5m a year due to the negotiation of longer player contracts.

Mr Sugar accompanied his announcement with a concurring attack on the finances of football, which he said had not yet absorbed the full implications of the Bosman ruling. This ruling means that players can move without a transfer fee at the end of their contracts.

"This (the Bosman ruling) is a devastating blow to the football industry," Mr Sugar said. "People have not fully adjusted to the implications. It is a real setback."

He added that larger trans-



On the attack: Alan Sugar criticised the transfer ruling

fers like the £15m move of Alan Shearer from Blackburn Rovers to Newcastle could not be sustained in the future though higher wages were likely to result.

"It will be important to sign younger players on longer contracts and develop your youth policy. Otherwise we might as well put the padlock on White Hart Lane and get the property developers in and put a supermarket there."

Spurs has amortised the value of its players down to zero over the course of their contracts. The current value of its playing staff is £10.2m in the balance sheet.

He was speaking as Tottenham announced pre-exceptional profits of £11.9m for year to 31 May. The club is changing its year-end to the end of July to bring it into line with the football season.

The club has set aside £8m of April's £11m rights issue to develop the north stand. Work should start at the end of this season and take the capacity to 36,000. Cash balances stood at £12.3m and Mr Sugar said funds were available for new players.

Group sales increased in £37m from £25m. Sponsorship revenues were 55 per cent ahead, largely due to the new deals with Pirelli and Hewlett Packard. Stripping out player trading, underlying profits almost doubled to £8.9m.

The company said the major contribution in the current financial year would be increased revenue from the new television deal with BSkyB. The shares fell 2.5p to 439p.

TI calm despite disposal

TI yesterday shrugged off the sale of almost 9 per cent of its shares by Mannesmann, the German telecommunications and engineering group, writes Tom Stevenson. The engineer's share price closed 8p lower at 556.5p after UBS, Cazenove and SBC Warburg placed 42.1 million shares at 532p each.

Analysts took at face value remarks from Mannesmann's chief executive, Joachim Fink, who said: "Mannesmann's decision to dispose of its holding in TI Group was based wholly on factors unconnected with TI where our investment has been extremely satisfactory."

Zafar Khan, engineering analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turbulla, said: "It is not a major blow for TI. There was a plan to work together in new areas and territories but nothing significant came of it."

The German group said it was "focusing its investments in telecommunications... and has recently undertaken significant additional commitments in telecommunications ventures".

TI's chairman, Sir Christopher Lewington, said the relationship had been "helpful" to TI and further collaboration opportunities would be explored.

Mr Khan said the groups had drifted apart in terms of strategy.

IN BRIEF

• Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Group, said his company was in talks with the receivers of Air Liberté on a possible acquisition of the French carrier. He said Air Liberté offered "a way forward for us in France," and France was a "slot-restricted country". British Airways is expected to deposit a bid for Air Liberté, currently under court administration, on Monday.

• Complaints about gas bills have doubled in the past six months, the Gas Consumers Council disclosed yesterday as it began discussions with the industry regulator Ofgas over the latest British Gas billing fiasco. Up to 1,000 people in South-West England who have switched to rival suppliers have received letters from British Gas's debt collection agency demanding payment for bills they have never received. Ian Powe, the GCC's director, attributed the error to a £150m billing system that the company had commissioned before checking it worked properly. Billing complaints rose from 6,200 between April and September 1995 to 12,858 in the same period this year.

• London International Group said it would cut 350 jobs as part of a revamp of its US manufacturing operations. It would close its condom manufacturing facility in Anderson, South Carolina, by December 1997 and transfer to a recently acquired plant in Alabama, it said. "Our decision to transfer condom manufacturing to Alabama follows LIQ's acquisition of Aladan in May of this year," said the group chief executive, Nick Hodges. Total costs resulting from the closure and other restructuring in the US would be fully met from the group's provisions, including the £8m notified at the time of the Aladan acquisition, Mr Hodges said.

• BAA's seven UK airports handled a total of 9.4 million passengers in September, up 3.2 per cent on the same month last year. Traffic in the UK domestic and Irish markets both increased by 8 per cent and the European scheduled market increased by 5 per cent, BAA said yesterday. Traffic on North Atlantic routes increased by 2.6 per cent and other long-haul traffic increased by 6.3 per cent. However, the European charter market showed a fall of 8 per cent on the same month last year.

• Fitness First, the UK health and fitness club operator seeking admission to the Alternative Investment Market, said it had raised £8m before expenses from its placing of 10 million ordinary shares at a price of 80p per share. The placing shares will represent 36.4 per cent of the ordinary shares in issue, giving the company a market capitalisation of £22m at the placing price. Dealing in the ordinary shares on AIM is scheduled to commence on 16 October.

IN THIS WEEKEND'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



IN THE SUNDAY REVIEW

Once, he dominated global politics, changing history as few others have ever done; today he is all but forgotten. But Mikhail Gorbachev still wants to change the world. He talks to Ian Parker about power, politics and American movies

"He always got his picture, always got his girl..." Eve Arnold celebrates the life and photographs (right) of Robert Capa

Plus: new fiction by Junot Díaz, and Helen Fielding's guide to country house hotels

and in real life

If this is Florida, it must be a facelift... The new health tourism: who cures what, and where? Plus: fashion gets to work



COMPANY RESULTS				
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Barclays (Q)	1.82m (1.09m)	0.53m (0.17m)	1.52p (0.32p)	0.75p (0.50p)
Bovis Lend Lease (Q)	20.9m (20.0m)	0.61m (0.56m)	0.88p (1.06p)	0.25p (0.22p)
Brooks Service Grp (Q)	13.5m (13.3m)	0.24m (0.18m)	1.35p (0.99p)	1.25p (1.25p)
David Brown (Q)	90.0m (71.0m)	8.73m (5.57m)	9p (7.4p)	2.65p (2.4p)
N Brown Group (Q)	131m (107m)	16.0m (12.6m)	7.35p (5.87p)	2p (1.6p)
Elan (Q)	94.5m (107m)	-5.76m (-3.85m)	-0.33p (-0.12p)	0.5p (0.5p)
Paragon Ind (Q)	86.3m (104m)	5.96m (5.83m)	10.1p (11.7p)	4.3p (4.5p)
JGX Oil (Q)	4.38m (-)	-0.82m (0.48m)	-1.77p (-1.26p)	- (-)
John Menzies (Q)	67.8m (76.0m)	4.51m (7.08m)	12.07p (18.83p)	6.7p (6.7p)
Slay Pharmaceuticals (Q)	5.14m (7.33m)	-5.0m (-9.98m)	-3.9p (-13.8p)	- (-)
Tottenham Hotspur (Q)	25.1m (20.1m)	2.9m (5.35m)	1.2p (23.8p)	5p (5p)
Tuller (Q)	8.07m (5.43m)	0.22m (0.11m)	1.35p (1.07p)	0.33p (0.25p)
United Industries (Q)	25.7m (22.8m)	2.10m (1.75m)	4.28p (3.13p)	0.75p (0.75p)
Wolver Computer Grp (Q)	3.74m (-)	260,000 (-)	0.33p (-)	- (-)
Austin Reed (Q)	38.8m (36.3m)	2.3m (1.4m)	4.9p (3p)	2.25p (2p)
RHB Resources (Q)	56.3m (46.8m)	2.35m (1.77m)	5.9p (5.4p)	2.4p (2p)
Central Transport (Q)	31.1m (27.9m)	1.5m (4.8m)	1.1p (4.3p)	- (-)
Country Casuals (Q)	23.7m (22.3m)	-0.92m (-1.06m)	-0.07p (-0.47p)	1.7p (1.41p)
Scapella Group (Q)	8.83m (7.72m)	1.07m (4.30m)	0.52p (0.13p)	nt (-)
Lloyds Chemicals (Q)	1.13m (1.08m)	47.2m (55.6m)	22.85p (22.3p)	18.4p (10.2p)
Greenwich H&M (Q)	13.8m (13.1m)	0.85m (0.94m)	0.8p (8p)	nt (-)
Five Group (Q)	32.4m (24.7m)	-9.9m (0.96m)	-3p (-4.2p)	- (-)
Shooshteyn H&M (Q)	88.3m (86.2m)	4.9m (3.7m)	8.99p (8.22p)	3p (2.75p)
Systech Integrated (Q)	1.25m (-)	-642m (-)	-5.8p (-)	- (-)

(P) - Priced (Q) - Quoted (RT) First Quarter (T) - Current figures 14 pence, previous 12 pence

market report / shares

DATA BANK

FTSE 100
3994.7 -14.6

FTSE 250
4432.8 +1.5

FTSE 350
1989.8 -5.6

SEAQ VOLUME
915.6m shares,
38,260 bargains

Gifts Index
94.71 -0.39

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

Share price, pence



Tesco overtakes Sainsbury in stock market valuation

TAKING STOCK

MARKET REPORT

PATRICK TOOHER

It was a momentous day in the food retailing sector as Tesco finally replaced arch-rival J Sainsbury as the nation's highest supermarket by stock market valuation. Tesco, already the leader in terms of market share, is also set to overtake Sainsbury as the country's most profitable supermarket.

At 313p, down 2p on the day, Tesco's market capitalisation of £6.8bn is now £12m more than Sainsbury, whose shares hit their lowest level since April 1994 after a large institutional investor, said to be SBC Warburg, offloaded 30 million shares via a placing at 347p.

Sentiment was also depressed by sell advice and reduced estimates from two local brokers. Paul Smiddy at Cuckoo Lyons cut his pre-tax forecast for the year to March 1997 from £767m to £718m. He believes that even

after the downgrade the rating of 14 times earnings is still too demanding as it clings to the outmoded concept of Sainsbury being the market leader with the strongest brand. He reckons earnings due at the end of the month will be "appalling" with profits down 12 per cent at the pre-tax level.

NatWest cut its forecast from £750m to £725m for this year and now looks for £794m (previously £820m) for fiscal 1998. It sees no evidence of a credible marketing strategy emerging to differentiate Sainsbury from its rivals, while like-for-like sales growth is nearer 3 per cent than the industry average of 5.5 per cent.

Worse than expected inflation figures and weak bond markets pushed the FTSE 100 28.1 points lower at one stage, but the index recovered after a mid-morning rally on Wall Street to end 14.6 adrift at 3994.7. Volumes of over 900



million were boosted by placings in Sainsbury and TI, the engineering group.

TI dipped as low as 549.5p before rallying to close a net 8p off at 556.5p in turnover of 98 million shares after German automotive and telecoms giant Mannesmann sold its 8.85 per cent stake for £224m. The 42.1 million shares were placed in the market by UBS, Cazenove and SBC Warburg at 532p.

Endorsed by Princess Diana and Edina and Patsy in the sitcom *Absolutely Fabulous*, Harvey Nichols has always been the height of fashion among Islington ladies who lunch. Now the famous Knightsbridge store, whose first re-

gional outlet opens in Leeds next week, is acquiring a stock market chic all of its own.

Floated at 270p in April, its shares have been strong performers, peaking earlier this week at 372.5p. They eased half a penny yesterday to 369.5p but US investment bank Morgan Stanley thinks the stock has further to go.

Analyst Victoria Melendez has just raised her profit forecasts for the group, citing better-than-expected sales and good cost control. Turnover at the flagship Knightsbridge store is likely to have risen by about 14 per cent year-on-year, more than her initial forecast of 9 per cent.

In addition, Harvey Nicks' recently opened Oxo Tower restaurant has become an instant hit and is operating at full capacity.

She now sees Harvey Nichols realising annual compound earnings growth of 27.3 per cent over the next three years and has raised its 12-month price target for the shares from 376p to 400p.

Elton may not be trying to steal a march on Harvey Nicks, but the women's wear retailer wants to shed its Sharon and Tracy image by appealing to a more fashion-conscious customer. To that end, models Jerry Hall and Marie Helvin, ex-Gladiators Sharon (sic) Davies and Diane Udall and actresses Lesley and Debbie Ash are being enlisted as part of a £5m revamp.

The news came as Elton unveiled a widening of first-half losses to £5.75m from £3.85m. Nick Bobb at broker Mees

Pierson has taken the stock off its sell list and predicts profits of up to £5m in the year to February 1998. The shares added 2p to 157.5p.

Elsewhere in retailing, shares in Manchester-based mail order group N Brown rose 22p to 421p after posting another set of strong results.

Composite insurer Commercial Union led the list of best Footsie performers, rising 19p to 645p after broker BZW said the shares could be worth 800p in a rating of the life sector. Cazenove, Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs are also buyers off the stock. Guardian Royal Exchange also benefited, firming 7p to 265p, as did General Accident, up 6.5p to 725p.

As flagged here yesterday, Albert Fisher completed the sale of its US distribution business for a better-than-expected £73.5m, but the shares fell 1.25p to 39.5p.

Shares in Helene were suspended yesterday at 7p as the clothes manufacturer said it had agreed to a proposed reverse takeover by Dyckhoff, a privately-run German retailer with about 30 stores. The deal, which is subject to due diligence, would mark the stock market return of textiles entrepreneur Harold Tillman, who recently won a four-year court battle to overturn his disqualification from being a company director.

Irish mineral explorer Ovoca is expected to announce an option on a 50 per cent interest in four large oilfields in western Siberia. The fields could contain proven and probable reserves of more than 550 million barrels. To fund the deal Ovoca is issuing 2.1 million shares of 2p each. Last night Ovoca's shares were quoted a penny lower at 15p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in pence unless stated. These are last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: F Ex right; Ex dividend; Ex all in United Securities Market; a Suspended; No Parity Paid per All Paid Shares; 1 All Stock. Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seac, simply dial 0800 123 325, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0800 123 325 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

For assistance, call our helpline 071 873 4375 (9.30am - 5.30pm).

Call cost 30p per minute (cheap rates), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol/100	Stock	Vol/100	Stock	Vol/100	Stock	Vol/100
BT Group	900000	British Energy	200000	BP	600000	Barton	70000
Sainsbury	500000	BT	100000	Imperial	600000	GFE	70000
Harmon	300000	Lloyds	100000	GLS	200000	GLS	40000
Wm	600000	Cable & Wireless	100000	Wolfsberg	70000	Reckitt	60000
British Telecom	900000	Ulys	100000	Reckitt	70000	Bank of Scotland	60000

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

Time	Index	Time	Index
Open 3999.4	down 25.7	11.00	4001.5 down 78
10.00	4000.5 down 24	12.00	4001.5 down 78
11.00	4000.5 down 30	13.00	3992.2 down 143
		Close 3994.7	down 14.6

Stock	Price	Change	Vol	Stock	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000	British Energy	200.0	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000	BP	645.0	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000	Imperial	600.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000	GLS	200.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000	Wolfsberg	700.0	+0.5	100000

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Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000	Imperial	600.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000	GLS	200.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000	Wolfsberg	700.0	+0.5	100000

Stock	Price	Change	Vol	Stock	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000	British Energy	200.0	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000	BP	645.0	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000	Imperial	600.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000	GLS	200.0	+0.5	100000
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Investment Companies	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Investment Trusts	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Household Goods	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Insurance	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Government Securities	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Short	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Medium	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Oil, Integrated	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Other Financial	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Pharmaceuticals	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

Printing & Paper	Price	Change	Vol
BT Group	369.5	+0.5	100000
Sainsbury	369.5	+0.5	100000
Harmon	300.0	+0.5	100000
Wm	600.0	+0.5	100000
British Telecom	900.0	+0.5	100000

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Consistent growth may not be enough for voters

Kenneth Clarke cried yesterday: "If we fight the election on the economy, we will win." Well what else would you expect from a Conservative Chancellor at his last party conference before a general election, determined to rally the troops?

But with voter-bribing tactics still eluding him, Mr Clarke is indeed hoping that the past few years of consistent economic growth will pay off in votes. And he has a long tradition of analysis and punditry to boost his optimism. Economic success wins elections for incumbents, so the received wisdom goes. Or, in the words of the incoherent Clinton adviser, James Carville: "It's the economy, stupid."

Moreover, the received wisdom has statistics to back it up, in the US at least. For more than 20 years, economists in the US have shown that a relatively simple econometric relationship holds between economic growth and the political parties' share of the Presidential vote. Roughly speaking, if you push up growth by 1 per cent in the last year of a Democratic President's term of office, then you push the Democratic candidate's vote up by around 1 per cent in the subsequent election (see graph).

However, the implications for Mr Clarke are out as cheerful as they may seem. In the 1992 US Presidential election, the model broke down. Economic growth simply did not deliver votes for George Bush. Moreover, the several possible reasons why growth wasn't enough for the Republicans in 1992 will all be worrying for Mr Clarke too.

The original economists' models of the links between growth and votes in the US emerged in the Seventies. Yale Professor Ray Fair considered



ECONOMIC VIEW
YVETTE COOPER

Presidential elections from 1916 to 1976 and developed a model which proved accurate (more or less) at predicting the 1980, 1984 and 1988 elections. The share of the vote, according to Professor Fair's model, depends on whether the candidate is already the incumbent President, the level of economic growth that year and very slightly on the level of inflation. Professor Fair also found that voters seemed to have short memories. Only growth in the last year before the election was significant.

The Fair model predicted that George Bush would win the 1992 US election

If Professor Fair's original model held true today in Britain, Mr Clarke could relax. Forget the recession, forget Black Wednesday, forget all those tax increases: the important thing for voters is the growth record for the next six months, which everyone agrees will be good.

However, even in the US, the original Fair model no longer works. It predicted that Mr Bush would win the 1992 election comfortably. He was the incumbent, inflation was low, and his recent economic growth record wasn't bad. Instead, Bill Clinton won with 53 per cent of the vote.

Amused by how seriously the world took his original model, Professor Fair has offered several

revisions to the theory to explain what happened in 1992.

For a start, it could be lack of good news. Although economic growth in the US in 1992 was reasonable enough, over the previous three years growth remained consistently below average. At no point was there even a blip of good economic news. Taking this into account, Professor Fair found that the 1992 election result seemed far more consistent with its predecessors after all.

But if economic good news does

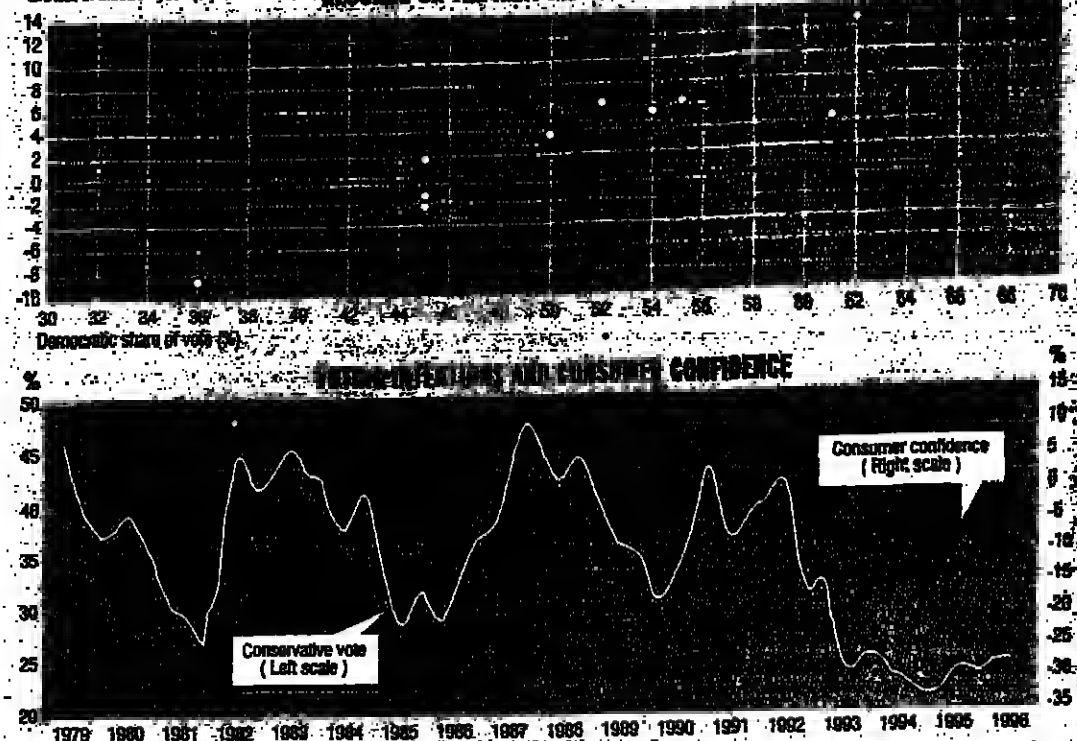
state of the economy. And the statistics support his theory. Again the implications for Mr Clarke, if the results cross the Atlantic, are not good. But even Professor Fair's revised model of the connection between economic growth and election results may miss out the most important factors. What about real wage growth for a start?

When Mr Carville talked about the economy, he talked about the stagnant real wage growth of average workers in the US, rather than overall levels of economic growth. Ping that into the equation, and the 1992 result may make more sense. Real wage growth hasn't been wonderful for the Conservatives in the UK either. For all Mr Clarke's claims that voters are now better off, wage growth has been relatively sluggish in the past couple of years, and the tax cuts that have contributed to rising living standards this year come so hot on the heels of tax increases in the past that voters may well be suspicious.

In fact, that suspicion could well be the most important factor that breaks the model both here and in the US. Voters may be influenced not so much by economic variables but by politicians lying about economic variables. In 1992, Mr Bush went to the polls having broken his promise not to raise taxes. John Major and Mr Clarke are about to do the same thing.

As the graph from Goldman Sachs shows, consumer confidence and government popularity moved roughly together over 20 years until 1993, when tax rises started to kick in. Could it be that breaking such politically sensitive promises has devalued voting intentions from the state of the economy?

HOW THE ECONOMY AFFECTS ELECTIONS



Unfortunately, Professor Fair's econometric model can't give us the answer, because it is so hard to measure political trust.

As Professor Fair himself cheerfully admits, there are huge weaknesses in plotting statistical relationships to explain such complex matters—not least the difficulties in measuring important variables. We have so little data to make such sweeping claims. Even going back to 1916, Profes-

sor Fair is only able to consider 20 Presidential elections. Search a small data set for a long time, throw in enough variables and some kind of statistical relationship is bound to emerge. But there is no guarantee that the relationship you actually find explains anything at all.

Professor Fair, with his revised model, predicts that Mr Clinton should win 49.5 per cent of the vote in November this year.

If he is accurate, we should give his model another look. In the meantime, however, the many other possible explanations for Mr Bush's 1992 defeat seem far more persuasive, and more worrying for Conservatives, who rest their electoral hopes on economic growth.

* "Economics and Presidential Elections" by Ray C. Fair, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Summer 1996.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Canada	0.6925	0.6925	0.6925	0.6925	0.6925	0.6925
Germany	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363
France	6.5595	6.5595	6.5595	6.5595	6.5595	6.5595
Italy	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363	1.9363
Japan	163.26	163.26	163.26	163.26	163.26	163.26
Belgium	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Denmark	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Netherlands	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Sweden	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Switzerland	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Australia	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Hong Kong	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Malaysia	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
New Zealand	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Saudi Arabia	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76
Singapore	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76	136.76

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	Nigeria	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Australia	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	Oman	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Brazil	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	Philippines	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
China	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	Portugal	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Egypt	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	Russia	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Finland	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	South Africa	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Ghana	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	Taiwan	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Guatemala	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	Thailand	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
India	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	UAE	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Kuwait	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000				

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount; rates quoted low to high are at a premium.

* Dollar rates quoted as reciprocal.

For the latest exchange rates call 0201 323 3035.

Cable cost 30p per minute (weekend) 40p other times.

Interest Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	5.75%	US	5.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	5.75%	Japan	5.75%
Canada	5.75%	Spain	5.75%	Belgium	5.75%
Portugal	5.75%	Greece	5.75%	Netherlands	5.75%
Denmark	5.75%	Sweden	5.75%	Switzerland	5.75%
Australia	5.75%	New Zealand	5.75%	South Africa	5.75%
India	5.75%	China	5.75%	Indonesia	5.75%
Malaysia	5.75%	Singapore	5.75%	Thailand	5.75%
Philippines	5.75%	Brunei	5.75%	Myanmar	5.75%
Laos	5.75%	Vietnam	5.75%	Cambodia	5.75%
Timor	5.75%	East Timor	5.75%	North Korea	5.75%
South Korea	5.75%	North Korea	5.75%	Iran	5.75%
Cuba	5.75%	Venezuela	5.75%	Colombia	5.75%
Peru	5.75%	Ecuador	5.75%	Bolivia	5.75%
Paraguay	5.75%	Uruguay	5.75%	Chile	5.75%
Argentina	5.75%	Costa Rica	5.75%	Panama	5.75%
Honduras	5.75%	Nicaragua	5.75%	El Salvador	5.75%
Guatemala	5.75%	Belize	5.75%	Jamaica	5.75%
Trinidad	5.75%	Tobago	5.75%	Barbados	5.75%
Guyana	5.75%	Suriname	5.75%	Guinea	5.75%
Sierra Leone	5.75%	Liberia	5.75%	Ivory Coast	5.75%
Ghana	5.75%	Upper Volta	5.75%	Senegal	5.75%
Mali	5.75%	Niger	5.75%	Chad	5.75%
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Zambia	5.75%	Botswana	5.75%	Lesotho	5.75%
Swaziland	5.75%	Malawi	5.75%	Mozambique	5.75%
Zimbabwe	5.75%	Angola	5.75%	Namibia	5.75%
South Africa	5.75%	Botswana	5.75%	Lesotho	5.75%
Swaziland	5.75%	Malawi	5.75%	Mozambique	5.75%
Zimbabwe	5.75%	Angola	5.75%	Namibia	5.75%

Bond Yields

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	5.75%	US	5.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	5.75%	Japan	5.75%
Canada	5.75%	Spain	5.75%	Belgium	5.75%
Portugal	5.75%	Greece	5.75%	Netherlands	5.75%
Denmark	5.75%	Sweden	5.75%	Switzerland	5.75%
Australia	5.75%	New Zealand	5.75%	South Africa	5.75%
India	5.75%	China	5.75%	Indonesia	5.75%
Malaysia	5.75%	Singapore	5.75%	Thailand	5.75%
Philippines	5.75%	Brunei	5.75%	Myanmar	5.75%
Laos	5.75%	Vietnam	5.75%	Cambodia	5.75%
Timor	5.75%	East Timor	5.75%	North Korea	5.75%
South Korea	5.75%	North Korea	5.75%	Iran	5.75%
Cuba	5.75%	Venezuela	5.75%	Colombia	5.75%
Peru	5.75%	Ecuador	5.75%	Bolivia	5.75%
Paraguay	5.75%	Uruguay	5.75%	Chile	5.75%
Argentina	5.75%	Costa Rica	5.75%	Panama	5.75%
Honduras	5.75%	Nicaragua	5.75%	El Salvador	5.75%
Guatemala	5.75%	Belize	5.75%	Jamaica	5.75%
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Zimbabwe	5.75%	Angola	5.75%	Namibia	5.75%

Money Market Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	5.75%	US	5.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	5.75%	Japan	5.75%
Canada	5.75%	Spain	5.75%	Belgium	5.75%
Portugal	5.75%	Greece	5.75%	Netherlands	5.75%
Denmark	5.75%	Sweden	5.75%	Switzerland	5.75%
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Zimbabwe	5.75%	Angola	5.75%	Namibia	5.75%

Tourist Rates

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.75%	Germany	5.75%	US	5.75%
France	5.75%	Italy	5.75%	Japan	5.75%
Canada	5.75%	Spain	5.75%	Belgium	5.75%
Portugal	5.75%	Greece	5.75%	Netherlands	5.75%
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Life Financial Futures

Germany	2.75%	US	8.75%
Discount	2.50%	Prime	5.00%
Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%
Canada	3.55%	Fed Funds	5.25%
Prime	5.50%	Spain	
Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo	6.75%
Discount	5.00%	Repo (30d)	4.50%
Discount	3.25%		

Fields					
Contract	Rate	Contract	Rate	Contract	Rate
Long UK	1.0000	Long US	1.0000	Long Euro	1.0000
Short UK	1.0000	Short US	1.0000	Short Euro	1.0000
Long Japan	1.0000	Long Canada	1.0000	Long Australia	1.0000
Short Japan	1.0000	Short Canada	1.0000	Short Australia	1.0000
Long New Zealand	1.0000	Long New Zealand	1.0000	Long New Zealand	1.0000
Short New Zealand	1.0000	Short New Zealand	1.0000	Short New Zealand	1.0000

Market Rates					
Contract	Rate	Contract	Rate	Contract	Rate
Long UK	1.0000	Long US	1.0000	Long Euro	1.0000
Short UK	1.0000	Short US	1.0000	Short Euro	1.0000
Long Japan	1.0000	Long Canada	1.0000	Long Australia	1.0000
Short Japan	1.0000	Short Canada	1.0000	Short Australia	1.0000
Long New Zealand	1.0000	Long New Zealand	1.0000	Long New Zealand	1.0000
Short New Zealand	1.0000	Short New Zealand	1.0000	Short New Zealand	1.0000

Kinane's persuasiveness brings Oscar

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Oscar Schindler will attempt to liberate the Melbourne Cup for Ireland for a second time, it was confirmed yesterday. The colt, who is almost big enough to be a prototype for the beast that the dizzy locals wheeled into Troy, will attempt to plunder Australia's greatest prize largely on the advice of Mick Kinane. The multiple Irish champion jockey, who collected the Melbourne Cup for the northern hemisphere for the first time when Vintage Crop was successful at Flemington three years ago, has persuaded owner Oliver Lehane to reinvest the third-place money Oscar Schindler gained in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on Sunday. "It was Mick who persuaded me and he will ride Oscar Schindler in the race," Lehane said yesterday. "He thinks he could win even if he was 7lb worse off, while he would need to improve 7lb to win the Breeders' Cup Turf. I still think he has an enormous task but we'll give it a go."

By the time Oscar Schindler

has burned it up on 5 November, the deeds of a greater beast on a different continent will be known. The equine celebrity Cigar is said to be in the sort of shape that has doctors applauding as he is prepared for the Breeders' Cup Classic two weeks tomorrow. Yet the horse who earlier this year equalled Citation's record of 16 straight wins in the United States now has fallibility as a constant shadow. Cigar's quest for the unique foundation of Del Mar in August and his defeat at Belmont Park at the weekend meant that he had lost two of his last three races.

Whether he can scramble back on to the pedestal may be determined by the presence of his New York conqueror, Skip Away, in the Classic, for which he would have to be supplemented. The grey is trained by Sonny Hine and owned by his wife, Carolyn, and if they had the money hidden away under

Away, in the Classic, for which he would have to be supplemented. The grey is trained by Sonny Hine and owned by his wife, Carolyn, and if they had the money hidden away under

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Aberg (3.05)
AB: Orontes (3.40)

a bed to add him to the field of contenders would be close to the ceiling. The 15th will decide in the next few days whether they can collect the \$400,000 it will take to participate in Toronto, and are considering partnership schemes to get their colt to post.

The word from Canada's business capital this week is that the globe's most valuable meeting may be disrupted by industrial problems. The rumblings from workers (they are still allowed to have union meet in Canada) suggest the Friday before the big day is not the optimum moment to be landing in the dominion.

But if there are placards about they are just as likely to be demonstrating Skip Away as any conglomerate, as he made himself as popular in North America as John Wilkes Booth when he brought down the champion. There is little more affection for Dare And Go, who was the first to bite into Cigar's ring of invincibility in the Pacific Classic earlier this year. He seems

to have subsequently mislaid his slingshot, but will be a potent force in the Classic if he can return to his best. Dare And Go is just one of two possible runners in the race for the California trainer Richard Mandella (no relation). The West Coast man also prepares the ex-French-trained colt Articus, who also has an engagement in the Mile. Articus, formerly an inmate with Criquehead Head, would probably switch to the longer event if the Woodbine surface received rain and developed a rice pudding texture. Whatover turns up for the Breeders' Cup on 26 October, however, there is little doubt that Cigar will be favourite for the Classic. The six-year-old was so distraught when his winning run was brought to an end in August that for days afterwards he refused to eat the peppermints that are his favourite confection. Cigar was in front just yards after the post at the weekend, however, and no one has been more vocal in telling him he did not actually win. Visitors with sweeties have been more worried about leaving his box with the same number of fingers as when they arrived.

The stewards decided that the voice in the sky's rider, Royce Phipps, was guilty of careless riding in that he allowed his mount to drift across causing interference to Claeswain. He was banned for two days.



Cigar will attempt to get back on the winning track in Toronto in a fortnight. Photograph: Phil Smith/Sporting Life

Nebiolo aims to improve product

Athletics

Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, aims to streamline the grand prix circuit from 1998 to put quality before quantity. Nebiolo stressed the 1997 circuit, including two events in Britain, on 15 and 20 June, would be the last in its present form. "We don't have difficulty with having great meetings on the grand prix," Nebiolo told a Dublin news conference after the IAAF's annual calendar meeting. "The difficulty is to limit the number, and if it will be possible, to have a great super league."

Nebiolo did not outline the format of a super league, but he is believed to want a smaller circuit of elite meetings. "We must find new ways of packaging and presenting the circuit so as to stimulate the public, the media and the sponsors," he said. "The IAAF is studying a new concept and philosophy for the 1998 grand prix and the grand prix commission will meet again in April to discuss and propose details."

Next year prize-money will be available for the first time at the World Indoor Championships, scheduled for Paris from 7 to 9 March and at the outdoor event in Athens from 1 to 10 August. About £2.67m will be on offer at the grand prix final in Fukuoka, Japan, on 13 September, the first time the final has been staged outside Europe since the circuit started 11 years ago. "We want to offer a certain opportunity to the athletes," Nebiolo said. "This is not professionalisation - professionalisation implies a given salary and a guaranteed pension. We don't have the resources for that, but we can't forget the athletes."

Commonwealth Games organisers have put back the athletics schedule at the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Games by two days to avoid a clash with the Johannesburg World Cup. The programme will now start on 16 September, three days after the three-day World Cup ends.

Grand prix calendar, Digest, page 27

Britons look sharp from start

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER reports from Barcelona

Showing all the speed and quick thinking which brought them silver medals at the summer Olympics, John Merricks and Ian Walker were in a class of their own in their new class of yacht, a Melges 24, for most of the two opening races of the Glenfiddich Gold Cup here yesterday.

They won the first race by 72sec and were a similar distance ahead going into the last lap of the second only for conditions to become more fluky, allowing Spain's Luis-Martinez Doreste not only to catch and pass them but also to pull out a 57sec margin in the last half mile.

However, a first and a second ahead going into the last lap of the second only for conditions to become more fluky, allowing Spain's Luis-Martinez Doreste not only to catch and pass them but also to pull out a 57sec margin in the last half mile.

On the first, there was no wind, on racing. On the second, only one race was completed and that was declared void by the jury after a complaint, led by Britain's Matt Humphries, that disqualifications should have been taken place had been overlooked. The race committee agreed and accepted responsibility.

The British national champion, Mike Lemon, is locked in a private and separate battle here with the aim of beating the European champion, Giorgio Zucoffo of Italy, to earn the right to represent Europe against the Americans at Key West in January. Lemon's 24th and 10th to Zucoffo's eighth and 18th keeps him in the hunt with perhaps only five races left in a series curtailed from its original 12.

ASCOT
2.30 Peter Chapple-Hyam and Paul Coleman 20% and 25% strike rates with bonus first-time out of the gate. DANCERS WITH DREAMS, from the family of the speedy Sobe, is just preferred to Cole's Binstang Timor. Musashan carries the first colours of Hamdan Al Maktoum and is best for speed, being by Majid out of a Danzig mare.

HYPERION
3.05 The first three home in the Rosemary Handicap on Frankie

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2.00 Fairy Knight
2.30 Dances With Dreams
3.05 Aberg
3.40 Farewell, My Love (nap)

HYPERION
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4.45 Russian Music (nb)
5.20 Bit On The Side

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4.15 Northern Fleet
4.45 Russian Music (nb)
5.20 Bit On The Side

HYPERION
4.15 Northern Fleet
4.45 Russian Music (nb)
5.20 Bit On The Side

HYPERION
4.15 Northern Fleet
4.45 Russian Music (nb)
5.20 Bit On The Side

HYPERION
4.15 Northern Fleet
4.45 Russian Music (nb)
5.20 Bit On The Side

ASCOT
2.00 Fairy Knight
2.30 Dances With Dreams
3.05 Aberg
3.40 Farewell, My Love (nap)

HYPERION
4.15 Northern Fleet
4.45 Russian Music (nb)
5.20 Bit On The Side

HYPERION
4.15 Northern Fleet
4.45 Russian Music (nb)
5.20 Bit On The Side

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5.20 Bit On The Side

Hill keeps mind on main point

Motor racing
DAVID TREMAYNE
reports from Suzuka

The places of Damon Hill's face remained set like a poker player's yesterday, but saying one of the inner tensions that he will undoubtedly be feeling as he prepares for the final push to the top of a mountain twice conquered by his father, Graham.

He spoke quietly of his feelings before Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix, which will decide the outcome of a world championship that seemed his for the asking at the mid-season point.

Outwardly he appeared calm and confident, as if he had not fluffed similar chances in the recent races in Hungary and Italy, and by his own hand prolonged the fight until this final stage.

Struggling thoughts of the championship from his mind has not been easy, he admitted, in the weeks since his failure to capitalise on early advantages at both the Hungarian and Italian races. "I would be lying if I said that I hadn't taken a conscious effort out to be thinking about winning the championship," he said. "Now I'm here I know I can go into my race routine, and things take care of themselves from that point onwards."

Jackie Stewart, three times the world champion, recently advised Hill to adopt a "pretty damn canny" approach if he found he were unable to lead Sunday's race, and Hill pondered the tactics he would employ to defeat his team-mate.

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in order to win the title. But I'm always nervous about taking a cautious approach because sometimes that throws up other difficulties."

He admitted that easing his concentration had proved his downfall at Monza, and added: "The best position to be in in any grand prix is in the lead. You are much more in command of what's going on. But if I'm running in the points I'll be very, very happy and will concentrate on finishing there."

His ace is the knowledge that Villeneuve must win without his rival scoring a point, whereas all he needs is sixth place. It is a strong psychological advantage.

"Jacques has the pressure on him. There's no way he can win the championship unless he wins the race. Whereas at least I have some options. But there's always pressure at a grand prix, and the thing for me is that I know that I can become world champion on Sunday. It's a motivating factor as much as anything."

Suzuka, a fast, twisting circuit that rewards daring and improvisation, has given Hill his greatest and latest races. In 1994, he beat Michael Schumacher fair and square in dire conditions. Last year, he crashed ignominiously. He loves the track. "It's tremendous, and I'll never forget that race in 1994. It was one of the most difficult I have ever done, and one of the most satisfying. And this race will certainly live up to expectations of being The Event."

Although he detests the idea that his entire career has distilled to this one point on which achievements of the past will be judged, he is sufficiently rounded now to accept the focus the world has placed on his performance this weekend. He smiled. "My whole purpose has been to win a championship, by winning races, and I have the opportunity on Sunday to do that. I expect that there will be a lot said after Sunday. I hope that most of it will be saying that Damon Hill is world champion."

Boy's helping hand from the stand stuns Orioles



Forget Babe Ruth, Joe DiMaggio and the rest. The hero of the New York Yankees this week is a 12-year-old boy from New Jersey called Jeff Maier, who helped the Yankees win the first game of the American League Championship Series at 4-4. They went on to a 5-4 win, which could pave the way to victory in the best-of-seven ACLS and a spot in the World Series later this month. Baseball's rules forbid fan interference, and television replays show beyond doubt that the ball was dropping just inside the fence. But the umpire made the wrong call, as he admitted later. Nor is Maier showing remorse. "As a Yankee fan, if I helped the team I feel pretty good," he said.

ter, which otherwise would have been caught by the Baltimore Orioles outfielder Tony Larraso. Instead the Yankees were awarded a home run, tying the first game of the American League Championship Series at 4-4. They went on to a 5-4 win, which could pave the way to victory in the best-of-seven ACLS and a spot in the World Series later this month. Baseball's rules forbid fan interference, and television replays show beyond doubt that the ball was dropping just inside the fence. But the umpire made the wrong call, as he admitted later. Nor is Maier showing remorse. "As a Yankee fan, if I helped the team I feel pretty good," he said.

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Cycling

ROBIN NICHOLL
reports from Lugano

Rain dampened Chris Boardman's desire for a golden finish to a season that many would regard as a career's worth of achievement. After finishing second in the World Time Trial Championships here yesterday, Boardman admitted he was still haunted by his crash in last year's Tour de France when on rain-soaked roads he fell, breaking a wrist and ankle.

"I was scarred by the experience," he said. "I would not say it scared me but it has taken away my confidence. I used to attack riders on mountain descents in the rain but now I struggle to stay with them. I find myself looking down watching for manhole covers instead of looking ahead."

In two weeks' time he is having two five-centimetre surgical pins removed from his ankle. "Perhaps after that I can beat this nightmare, and stop thinking about it so much."

His morale fell as fast as the rain when he looked out of his hotel window at breakfast time. "I pulled back the curtains and screamed 'no way.' Three weather forecasts had promised a clear day. Rain was my worst nightmare," he said.

After a viral infection ruined his 1996 Tour, Boardman's mission was to "salvage his season." He started with a bronze medal in the Olympic time trial, regained the world 4,000 metres pursuit track title, then smashed the world hour record. He won five time trials including the prestigious prizes of the Grand Prix des Nations, the Telekom Grand Prix, and the Grand Prix des Nations.

That was not enough. He wanted the world time trial crown which he first won in 1994, but yesterday the bespectacled Zülle was 39sec faster. Boardman snatched the silver by two seconds from Zülle's compatriot Tony Rominger, from whom Boardman had taken the hour record last month. Britain's Chris Newton was 24th.

IB approves tactical substitutions

Rugby Union
DAVID LLEWELLYN

Rugby can clean up its act and revolutionise its tactics following a landmark decision yesterday by the International Board to allow tactical substitutions at international and senior club level in northern and southern hemisphere rugby.

It means that from 4 November coaches will be able to use all six replacements for injury - instead of the present four

- or field five of them as strategic subs, although in the latter case two of them must be front-row operators. This will eradicate the blatant practice of feigning injury to enable substitutions to be made.

The first example of this was in 1992 when the France lock Christian Mougou trotted off against Wales, visibly untroubled but apparently with a calf injury, to allow the more adept line-out man, Olivier Roumat, to take the field in Cardiff.

The IB's chairman, Vernon

Pugh, acknowledged the abuse that has been going on and said: "It makes the game more honest, in that it addresses concerns about players feigning injuries." The Lions manager, Fran Cotton, agreed: "During the summer series of Test matches involving the southern hemisphere countries, there was blatant flouting of the law that allows a player to be replaced only for injuries," he said.

It was not all sweetness and light for the IB after they were called on by the Irish Rugby Foot-

ball Union and Canada's governing body to assess their claims that British clubs are breaking IB regulations concerning player availability. The Irish are questioning the actions of English clubs, among them London Irish, while the Canadians have a beef with a Welsh club, believed to be Bridgend, who have three Canucks on their books.

London Irish, who are involved in the European Conference - the secondary tournament, are refusing to release players for Irish provinces

who are taking part in the European Cup. Certain of the Exiles' players are defying their club but the Rugby Football Union and the Welsh Rugby Union have been given 21 days by the IB in which to respond.

One dispute looks to have been settled with 36 Scotland players signing a three-year full-time contract with the Scottish Rugby Union. Scott Hastings, Ken Logan and Duncan Hodge are among a small list of top players refusing to sign. The deal includes match fees of £2,500.

Australia collapse to spin

Cricket

Australia 182
India 57-1

The Indian spinners Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi and Anshu Kapoor exploited a dry and cracked pitch to dismiss Australia for 182 on the first day of the one-off Test in New Delhi yesterday.

India then reached 57 for 1 by the close after losing opener Vikram Rathore for five when he was caught by Ricky Ponting at midweek off the fast bowler Paul Reiffel.

Leg-spinner Kumble took 4 for 63, the left-arm spinner Joshi 2 for 36 and Kapoor took 2 for 30 with his off-breaks as Australia collapsed from 81 for 1.

The paceman Venkatesh Prasad and a run-out accounted for the other two wickets after Australia won the toss on a surface that was expected to aid the slow bowlers.

The Australian coach, Geoff Marsh, said: "We did play a couple of loose strokes but the Indian spinners bowled extremely well."

"We'd have liked to score 50 or 60 more runs but the game is still wide open. The ball's turning and it's keeping up and down."

Top scorer Michael Slater made his 44th 130 minutes off 96 deliveries and included six fours.

(First day's Australia team) 1. Slater; 2. C. Smith; 3. P. Reiffel; 4. D. Lille; 5. M. Slater; 6. S. Joshi; 7. A. Kumble; 8. V. Prasad; 9. S. Kapur; 10. S. Anand; 11. S. Tendulkar; 12. S. Gavaskar; 13. S. Tendulkar; 14. S. Gavaskar; 15. S. Tendulkar; 16. S. Gavaskar; 17. S. Tendulkar; 18. S. Gavaskar; 19. S. Tendulkar; 20. S. Gavaskar.

(First day's India team) 1. Slater; 2. C. Smith; 3. P. Reiffel; 4. D. Lille; 5. M. Slater; 6. S. Joshi; 7. A. Kumble; 8. V. Prasad; 9. S. Kapur; 10. S. Anand; 11. S. Tendulkar; 12. S. Gavaskar; 13. S. Tendulkar; 14. S. Gavaskar; 15. S. Tendulkar; 16. S. Gavaskar; 17. S. Tendulkar; 18. S. Gavaskar; 19. S. Tendulkar; 20. S. Gavaskar.

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SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics

1997 GRAND PRIX SCHEDULE: 4 May Rio de Janeiro; 12 May Osaka; 19 May Tokyo; 26 May London; 2 June Berlin; 9 June Rome; 16 June Paris; 23 June London; 30 June Berlin; 7 July London; 14 July London; 21 July London; 28 July London; 4 Aug London; 11 Aug London; 18 Aug London; 25 Aug London; 1 Sept London; 8 Sept London; 15 Sept London; 22 Sept London; 29 Sept London; 6 Oct London; 13 Oct London; 20 Oct London; 27 Oct London; 3 Nov London; 10 Nov London; 17 Nov London; 24 Nov London; 1 Dec London; 8 Dec London; 15 Dec London; 22 Dec London; 29 Dec London.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES: New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 1); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 2); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 3); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 4); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 5); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 6); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 7); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 8); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 9); New York Yankees 5, Baltimore Orioles 4 (Game 10).

Basketball

The Budweiser League side Derby Storm have strengthened their back court by signing the 6ft 3in American college guard Mickey Frader and retaining off-guard Kurt Samuels on a week-to-week basis.

Boxing

Colin McEneaney has threatened legal action over a controversial featherweight title fight in London tonight. Doncaster's Jon Inwin and Smith Odom, of Ghana, meet at the Hilton Hotel for the title vacated by Sunderland's Billy Hardy. But McEneaney, the former World Boxing Organisation champion, says he was promised, in writing, a title chance if he won a final eliminator last month, which he did against Tazuo Nakamura.

Cycling

WORLD ROAD RACE CHAMPIONSHIPS (Lugano, Switzerland): 1. S. Zülle; 2. C. Boardman; 3. S. Zülle; 4. S. Zülle; 5. S. Zülle; 6. S. Zülle; 7. S. Zülle; 8. S. Zülle; 9. S. Zülle; 10. S. Zülle; 11. S. Zülle; 12. S. Zülle; 13. S. Zülle; 14. S. Zülle; 15. S. Zülle; 16. S. Zülle; 17. S. Zülle; 18. S. Zülle; 19. S. Zülle; 20. S. Zülle.

Football

Italy have agreed to play a friendly against Bosnia in Sarajevo next month, probably on 6 November. Italy will be the first national team to play there since the end of the Bosnian conflict.

Roger Joseph, the former England defender, is having trials with First Division Swindon after being released by Wimbledon in the summer.

Wimbledon's LATE RESULTS: World Cup Group One Denmark 2, Greece 1; Group Two England 2, Poland 1; Italy 1, Georgia 0; Group Three Norway 3, Hungary 0; Group Four Russia 1, Latvia 0; Group Five Sweden 1, Finland 0; Group Six Czech Republic 1, Slovakia 0; Group Seven Slovenia 1, Croatia 0; Group Eight Serbia 1, Montenegro 0; Group Nine Albania 0, Bulgaria 1; Group Ten Armenia 1, Azerbaijan 0; Group Eleven Georgia 1, Ukraine 0; Group Twelve Belarus 1, Lithuania 0; Group Thirteen Kazakhstan 1, Uzbekistan 0; Group Fourteen Kyrgyzstan 1, Tajikistan 0; Group Fifteen Turkmenistan 1, Oman 0; Group Sixteen Yemen 1, Qatar 0; Group Seventeen Bahrain 1, Kuwait 0; Group Eighteen Saudi Arabia 1, Jordan 0; Group Nineteen Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Twenty Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Twenty-one Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Twenty-two Qatar 1, Bahrain 0; Group Twenty-three Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Twenty-four Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Twenty-five Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Twenty-six Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Twenty-seven Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Twenty-eight Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Twenty-nine Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Thirty Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Thirty-one Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Thirty-two Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Thirty-three Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Thirty-four Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Thirty-five Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Thirty-six Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Thirty-seven Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Thirty-eight Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Thirty-nine Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Forty Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Forty-one Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Forty-two Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Forty-three Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Forty-four Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Forty-five Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Forty-six Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Forty-seven Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Forty-eight Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Forty-nine Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Fifty Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Fifty-one Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Fifty-two Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Fifty-three Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Fifty-four Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Fifty-five Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Fifty-six Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Fifty-seven Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Fifty-eight Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Fifty-nine Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Sixty Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Sixty-one Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Sixty-two Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Sixty-three Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Sixty-four Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Sixty-five Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Sixty-six Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Sixty-seven Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Sixty-eight Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Sixty-nine Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Seventy Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Seventy-one Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Seventy-two Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Seventy-three Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Seventy-four Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Seventy-five Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Seventy-six Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Seventy-seven Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Seventy-eight Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Seventy-nine Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Eighty Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Eighty-one Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Eighty-two Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Eighty-three Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Eighty-four Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Eighty-five Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Eighty-six Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Eighty-seven Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Eighty-eight Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Eighty-nine Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Ninety Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Ninety-one Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Ninety-two Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Ninety-three Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Ninety-four Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Ninety-five Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Ninety-six Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Ninety-seven Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Ninety-eight Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Ninety-nine Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and one Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and two Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and three Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and four Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and five Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and six Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and seven Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and eight Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and nine Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and ten Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and eleven Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and twelve Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and thirteen Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and fourteen Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and fifteen Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and sixteen Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and seventeen Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and eighteen Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and nineteen Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and twenty Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and twenty-one Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and twenty-two Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and twenty-three Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and twenty-four Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and twenty-five Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and twenty-six Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and twenty-seven Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and twenty-eight Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and twenty-nine Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and thirty Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and thirty-one Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and thirty-two Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and thirty-three Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and thirty-four Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and thirty-five Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and thirty-six Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and thirty-seven Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and thirty-eight Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and thirty-nine Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and forty Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and forty-one Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and forty-two Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and forty-three Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and forty-four Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and forty-five Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and forty-six Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and forty-seven Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and forty-eight Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and forty-nine Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and fifty Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and fifty-one Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and fifty-two Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and fifty-three Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and fifty-four Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and fifty-five Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and fifty-six Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and fifty-seven Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and fifty-eight Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and fifty-nine Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and sixty Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and sixty-one Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and sixty-two Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and sixty-three Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and sixty-four Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and sixty-five Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and sixty-six Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and sixty-seven Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and sixty-eight Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and sixty-nine Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and seventy Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and seventy-one Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and seventy-two Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and seventy-three Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and seventy-four Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and seventy-five Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and seventy-six Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and seventy-seven Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and seventy-eight Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and seventy-nine Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and eighty Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and eighty-one Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and eighty-two Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and eighty-three Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and eighty-four Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and eighty-five Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and eighty-six Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and eighty-seven Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and eighty-eight Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and eighty-nine Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and ninety Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and ninety-one Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and ninety-two Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group One hundred and ninety-three Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group One hundred and ninety-four Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group One hundred and ninety-five Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group One hundred and ninety-six Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group One hundred and ninety-seven Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group One hundred and ninety-eight Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group One hundred and ninety-nine Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and one Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and two Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and three Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and four Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and five Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and six Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and seven Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and eight Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and nine Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and ten Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and eleven Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and twelve Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and thirteen Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and fourteen Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and fifteen Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and sixteen Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and seventeen Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and eighteen Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and nineteen Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and twenty Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-one Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-two Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-three Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-four Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-five Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-six Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-seven Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-eight Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and twenty-nine Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and thirty Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-one Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-two Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-three Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-four Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-five Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-six Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-seven Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-eight Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and thirty-nine Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and forty Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and forty-one Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and forty-two Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and forty-three Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and forty-four Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and forty-five Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and forty-six Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and forty-seven Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and forty-eight Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and forty-nine Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and fifty Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-one Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-two Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-three Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-four Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-five Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-six Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-seven Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-eight Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and fifty-nine Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and sixty Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-one Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-two Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-three Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-four Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-five Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-six Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-seven Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-eight Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and sixty-nine Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and seventy Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-one Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-two Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-three Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-four Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-five Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-six Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-seven Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-eight Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and seventy-nine Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and eighty Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-one Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-two Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-three Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-four Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-five Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-six Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-seven Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-eight Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and eighty-nine Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and ninety Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-one Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-two Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-three Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-four Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-five Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-six Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-seven Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-eight Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Two hundred and ninety-nine Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and one Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and two Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and three Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and four Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and five Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and six Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and seven Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and eight Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and nine Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and ten Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and eleven Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and twelve Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and thirteen Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and fourteen Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and fifteen Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and sixteen Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and seventeen Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and eighteen Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and nineteen Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and twenty Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-one Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-two Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-three Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-four Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-five Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-six Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-seven Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-eight Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and twenty-nine Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and thirty Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-one Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-two Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-three Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-four Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-five Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-six Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-seven Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-eight Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and thirty-nine Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and forty Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and forty-one Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and forty-two Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and forty-three Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and forty-four Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and forty-five Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and forty-six Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and forty-seven Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and forty-eight Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and forty-nine Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and fifty Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-one Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-two Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-three Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-four Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-five Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-six Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-seven Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-eight Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and fifty-nine Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and sixty Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-one Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-two Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-three Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-four Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-five Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-six Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-seven Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-eight Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and sixty-nine Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and seventy Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-one Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-two Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-three Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-four Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-five Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-six Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-seven Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-eight Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and seventy-nine Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and eighty Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-one Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-two Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-three Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-four Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-five Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-six Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-seven Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-eight Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and eighty-nine Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and ninety Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-one Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-two Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-three Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-four Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-five Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-six Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-seven Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-eight Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Three hundred and ninety-nine Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Four hundred Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Four hundred and one Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Four hundred and two Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Four hundred and three Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Four hundred and four Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Four hundred and five Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Four hundred and six Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Four hundred and seven Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Four hundred and eight Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Four hundred and nine Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Four hundred and ten Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Four hundred and eleven Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Four hundred and twelve Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Four hundred and thirteen Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Four hundred and fourteen Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Four hundred and fifteen Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Four hundred and sixteen Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Four hundred and seventeen Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Four hundred and eighteen Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0; Group Four hundred and nineteen Iraq 1, Syria 0; Group Four hundred and twenty Lebanon 1, Palestine 0; Group Four hundred and twenty-one Oman 1, Yemen 0; Group Four hundred and twenty-two Kuwait 1, Iraq 0; Group Four hundred and twenty-three Syria 1, Lebanon 0; Group Four hundred and twenty-four Palestine 1, Oman 0; Group Four hundred and twenty-five Jordan 1, Saudi Arabia 0

